X

CLAMP

V 3·IN·1

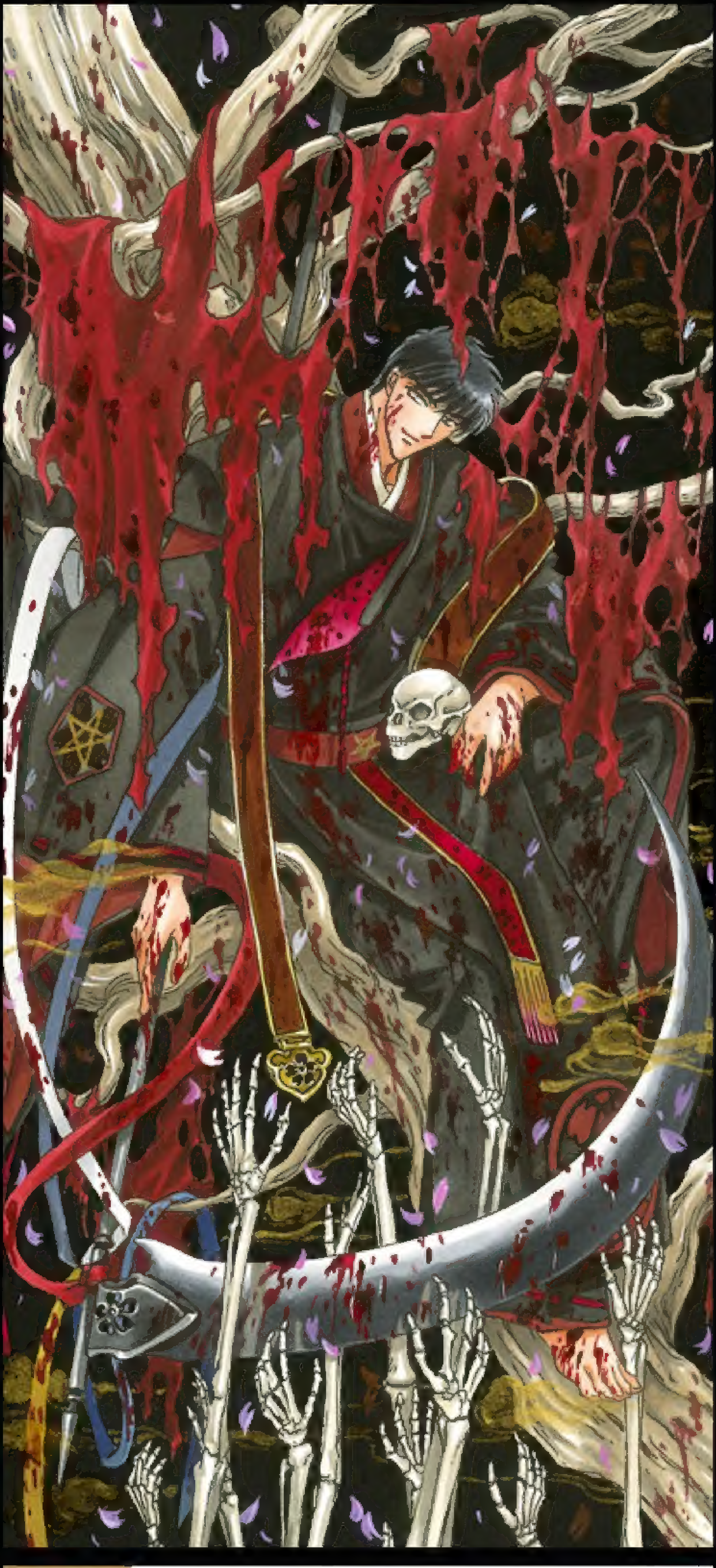
X

VOLUME 5, PART 1

KEKKAI III

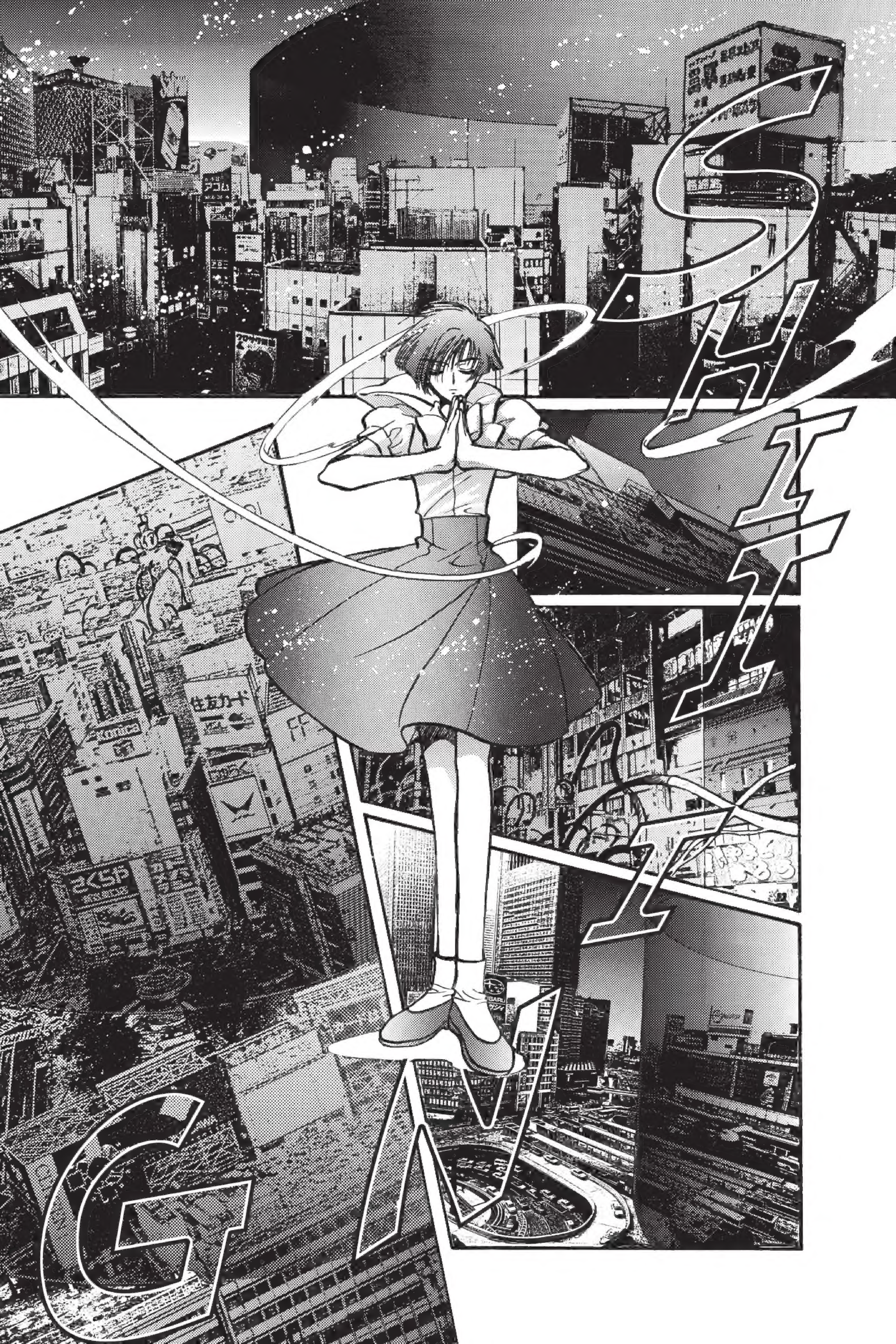
the seven seals

X

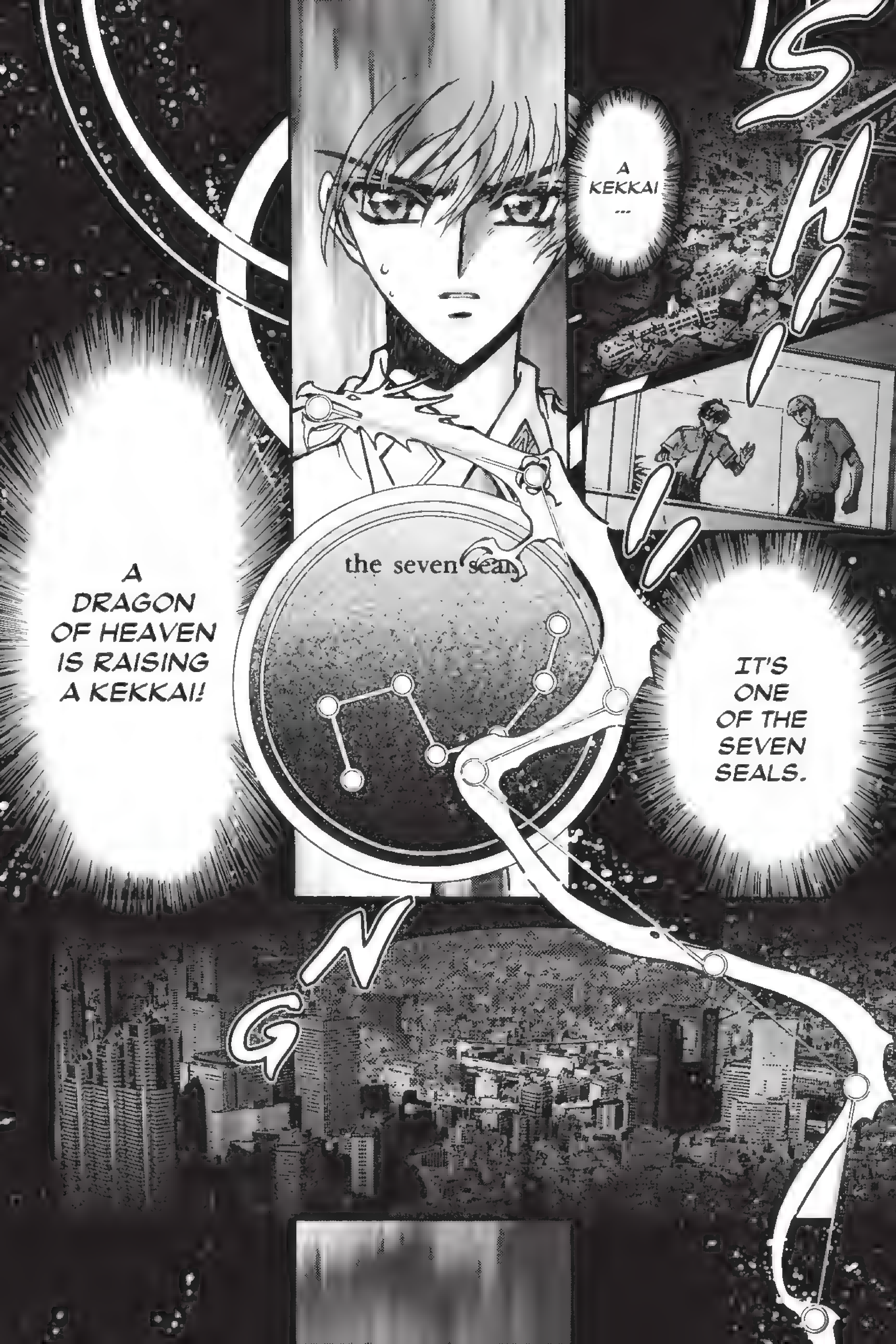


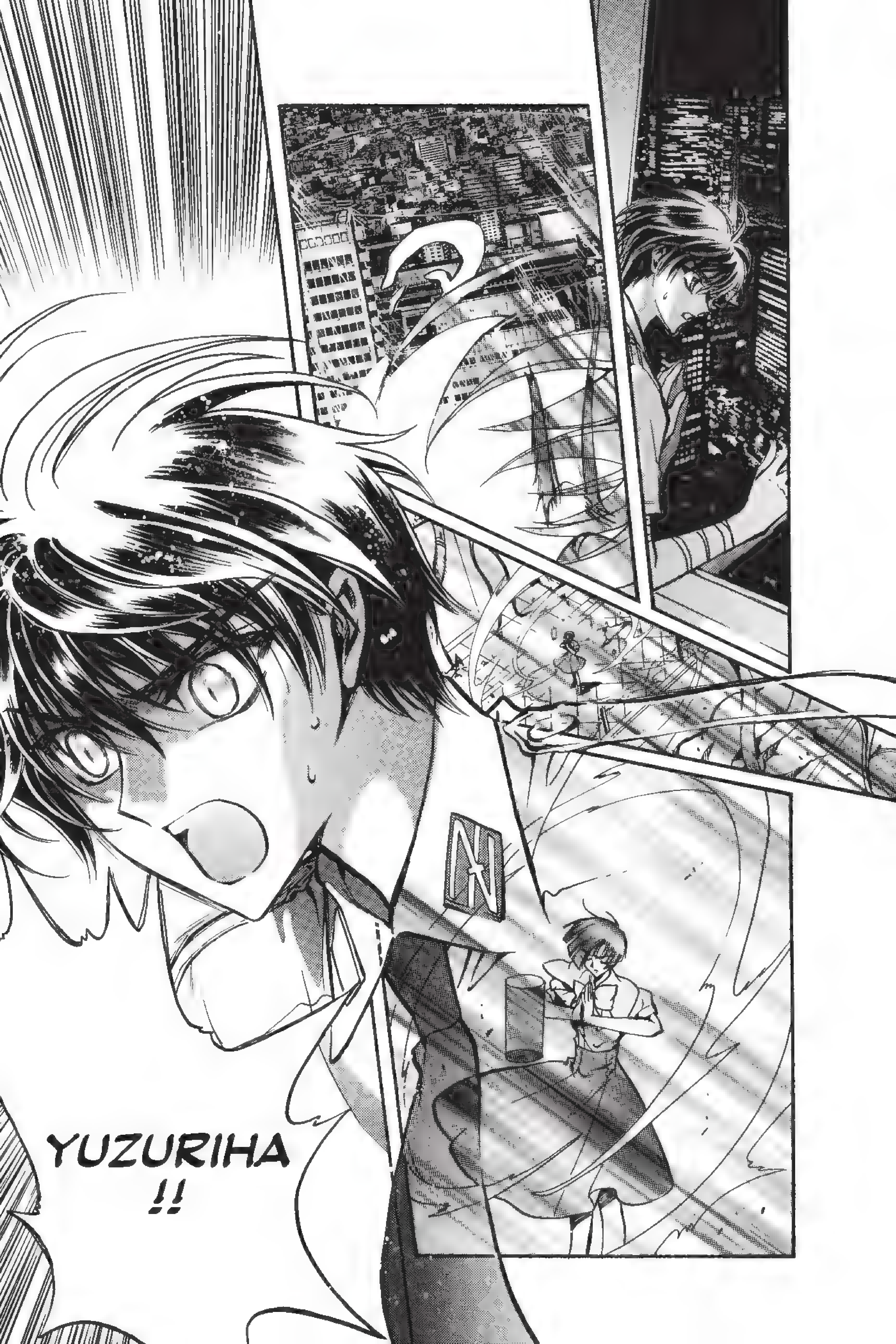
13 DEATH

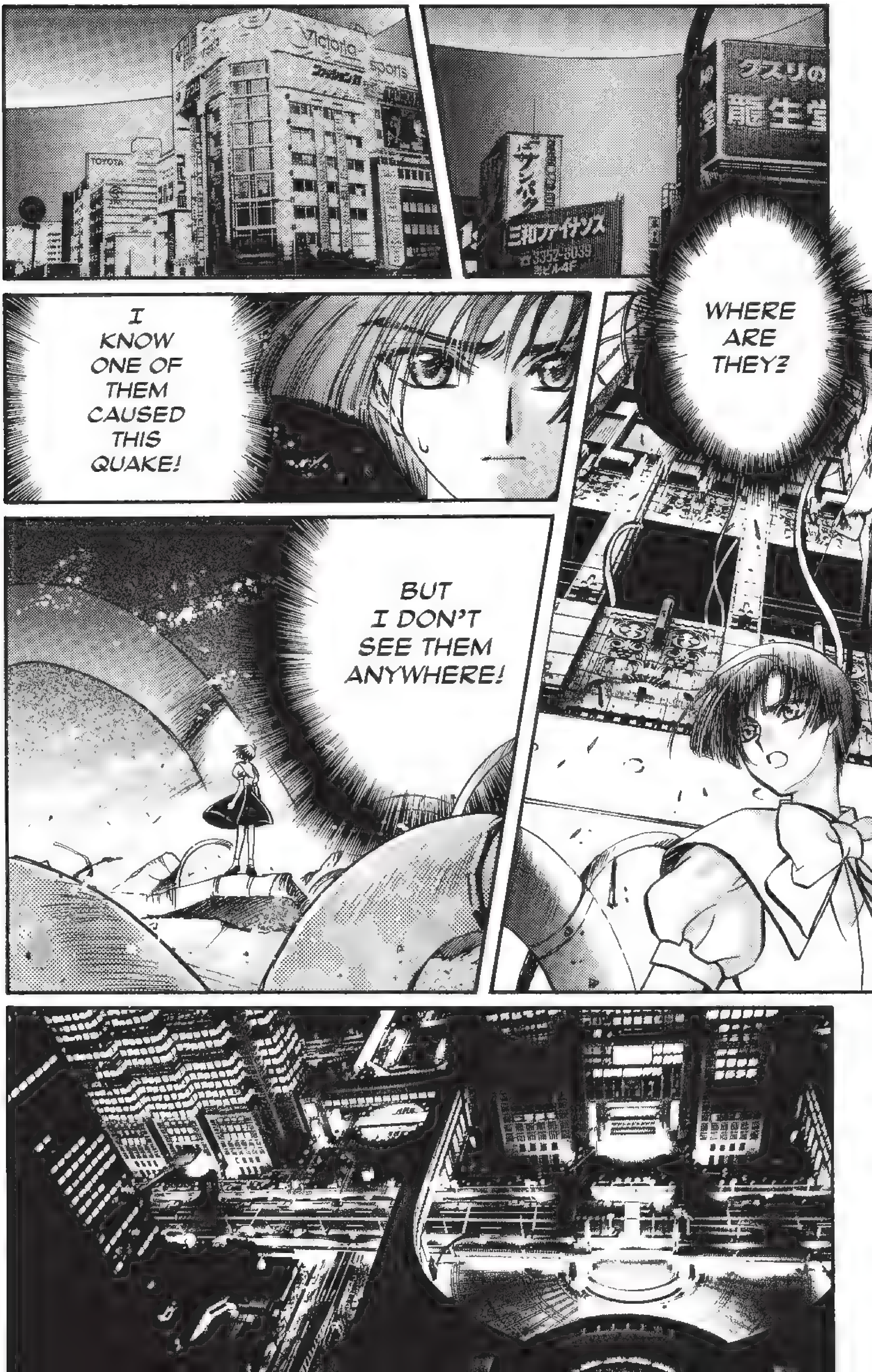
נ

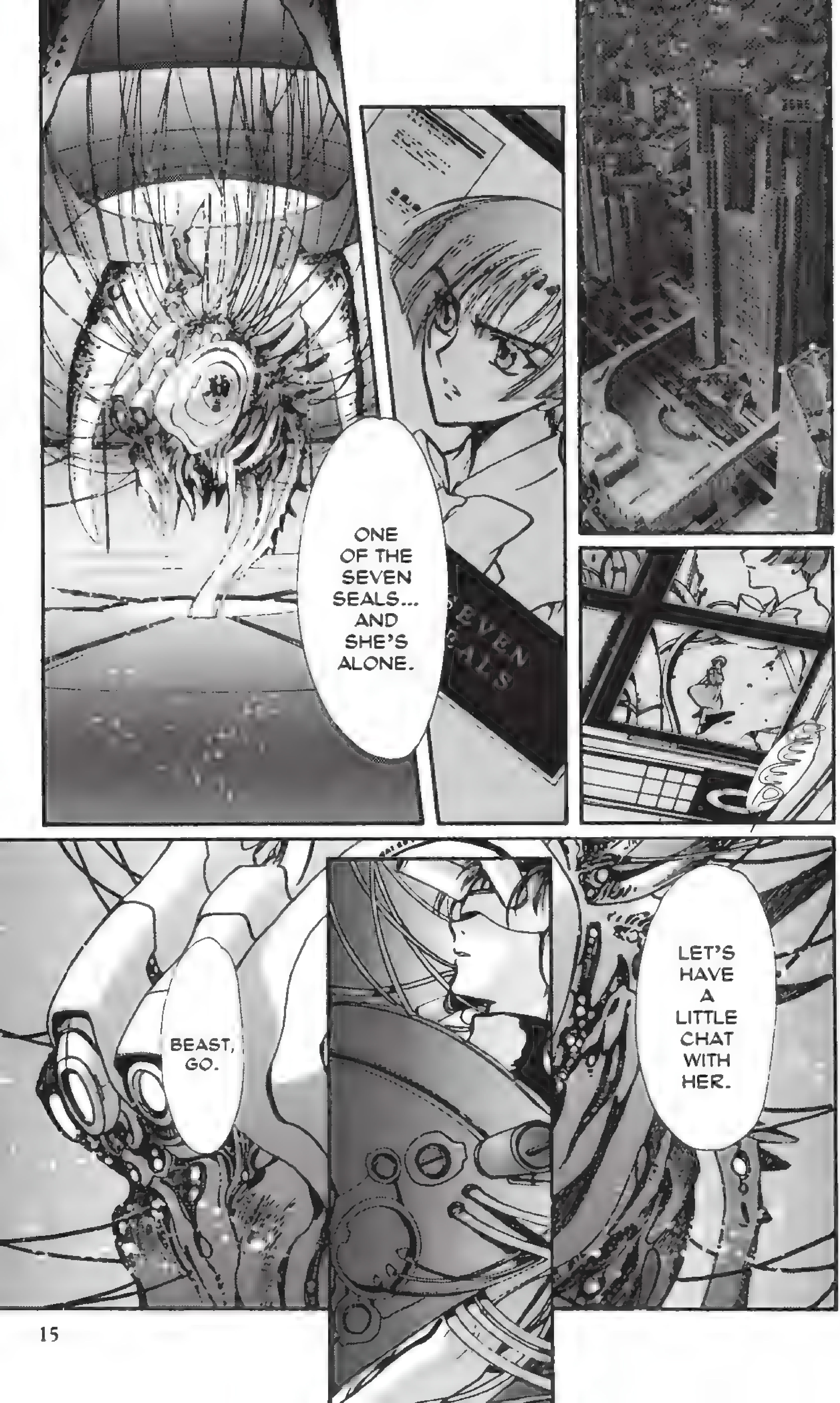

SHIFTING
アコム
住友カード
さくらや

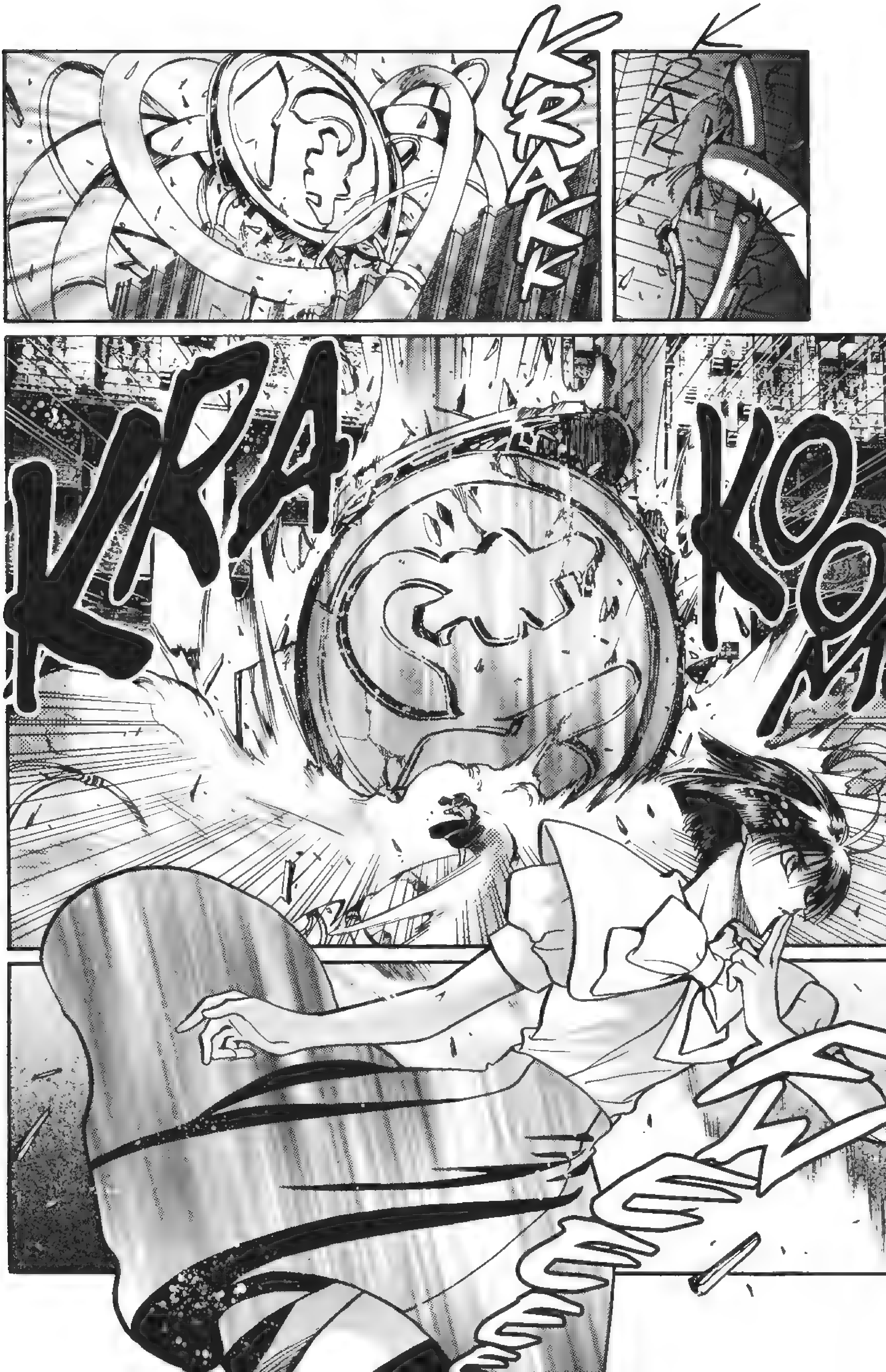
SHIIIING

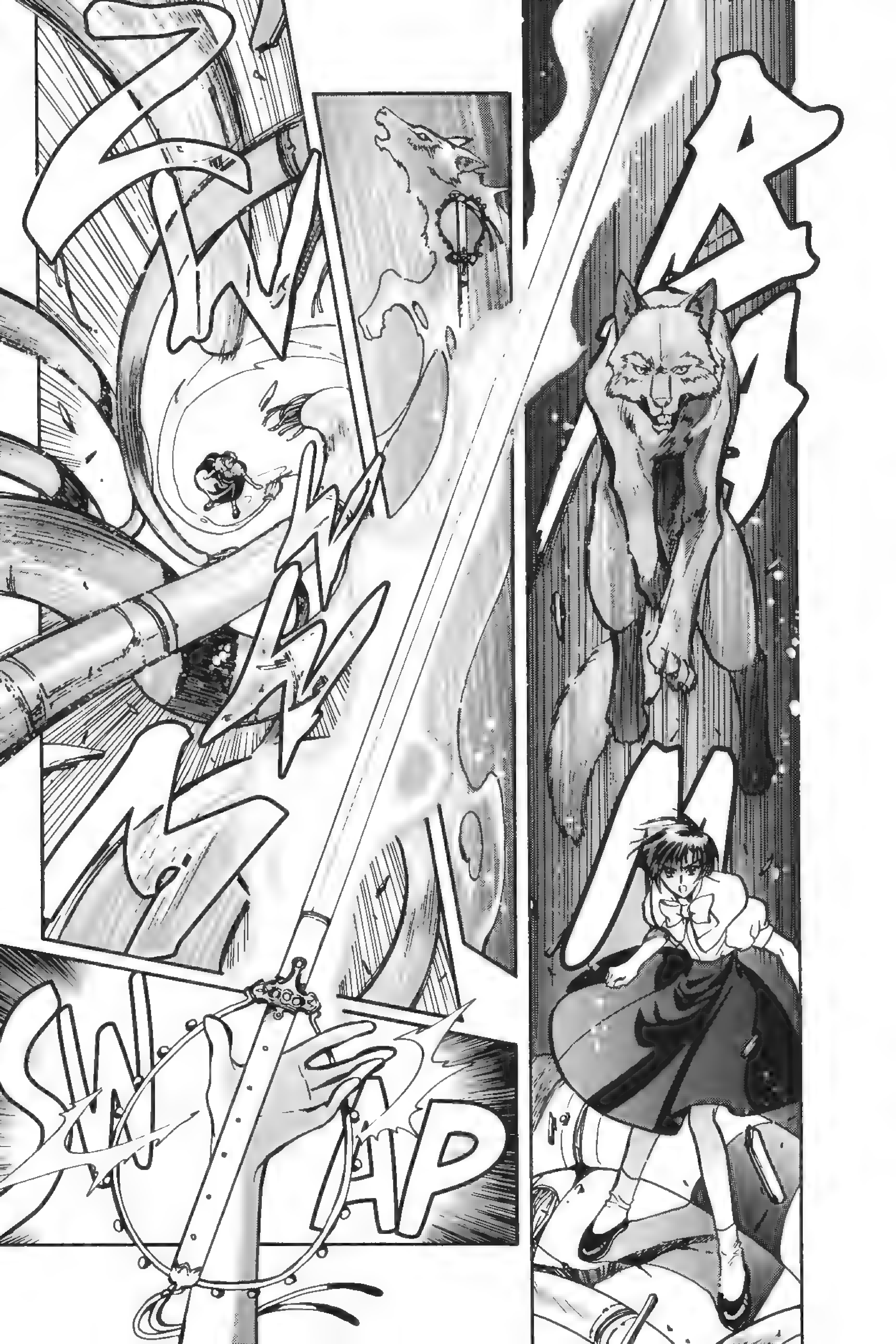

SHIIIIN
A KEKKAI ...
IT'S ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.
A DRAGON OF HEAVEN IS RAISING A KEKKAI!
the seven seals
G

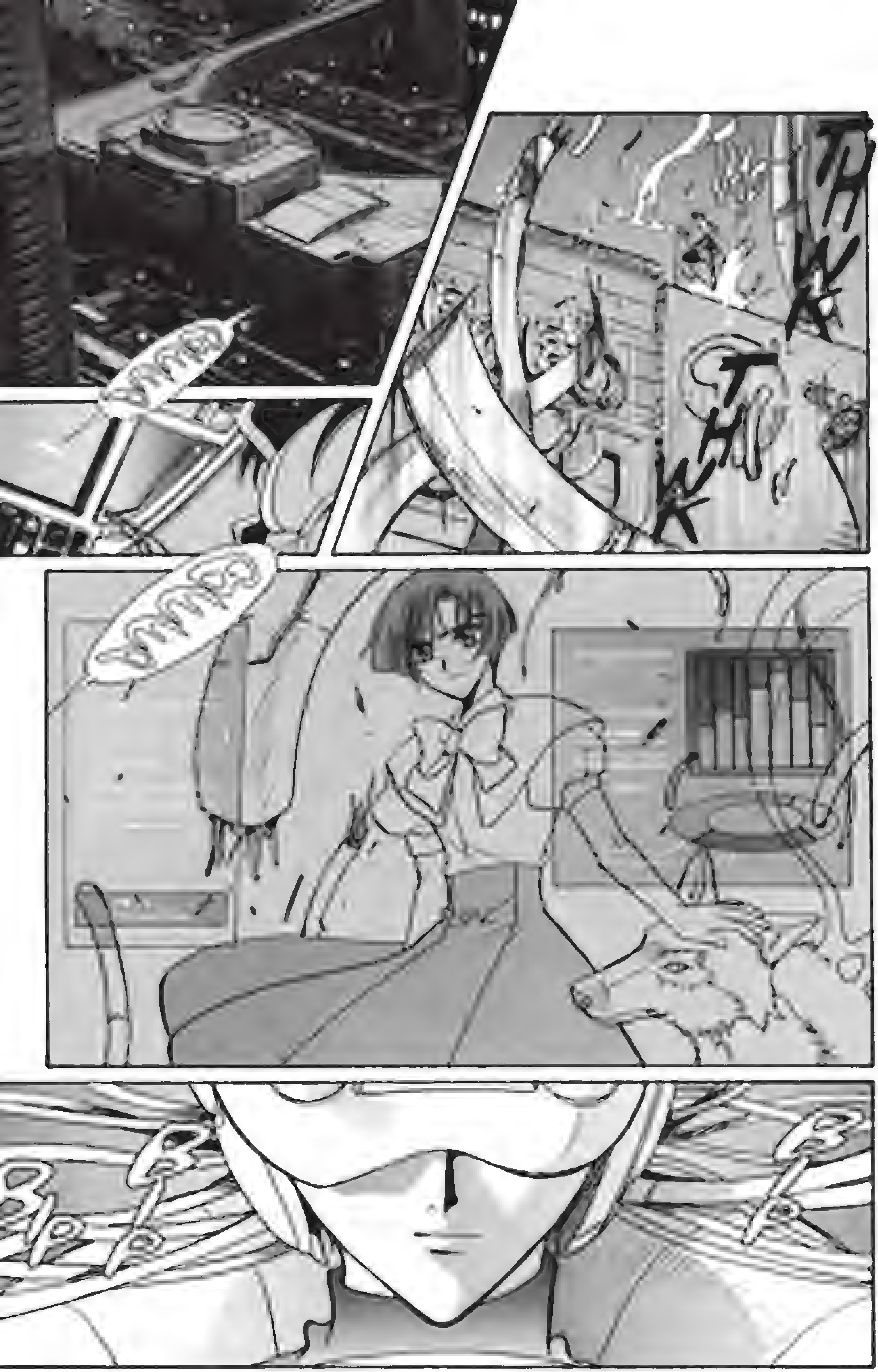

YUZURIHA !!

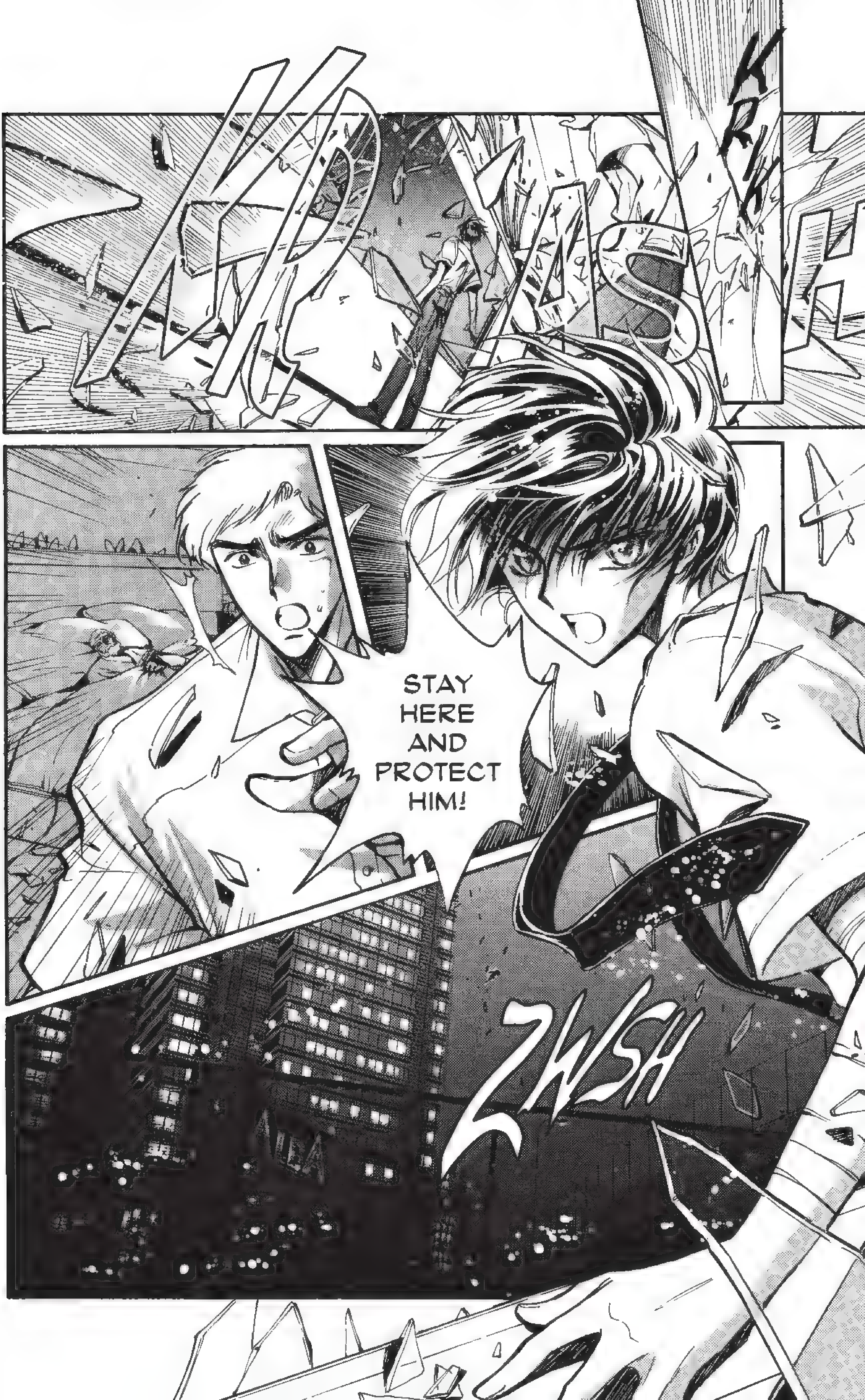

クスリの
龍生堂
三和ファイナンス
3352-8039
Victoria
sports
TOYOTA
WHERE ARE THEY?
I KNOW ONE OF THEM CAUSED THIS QUAKE!
BUT I DON'T SEE THEM ANYWHERE!

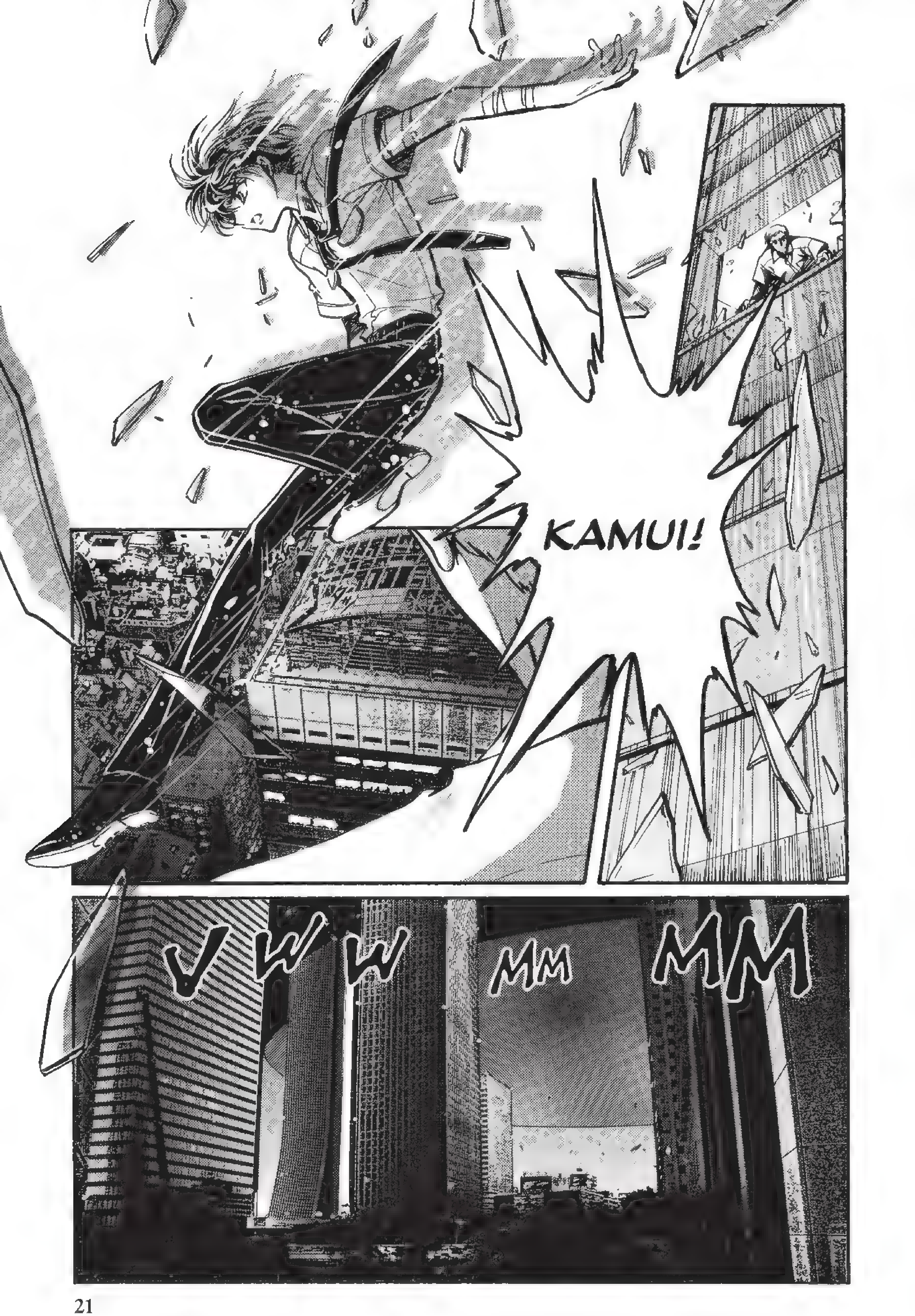

ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS... AND SHE'S ALONE.
SEVEN SEALS
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH HER.
BEAST, GO.

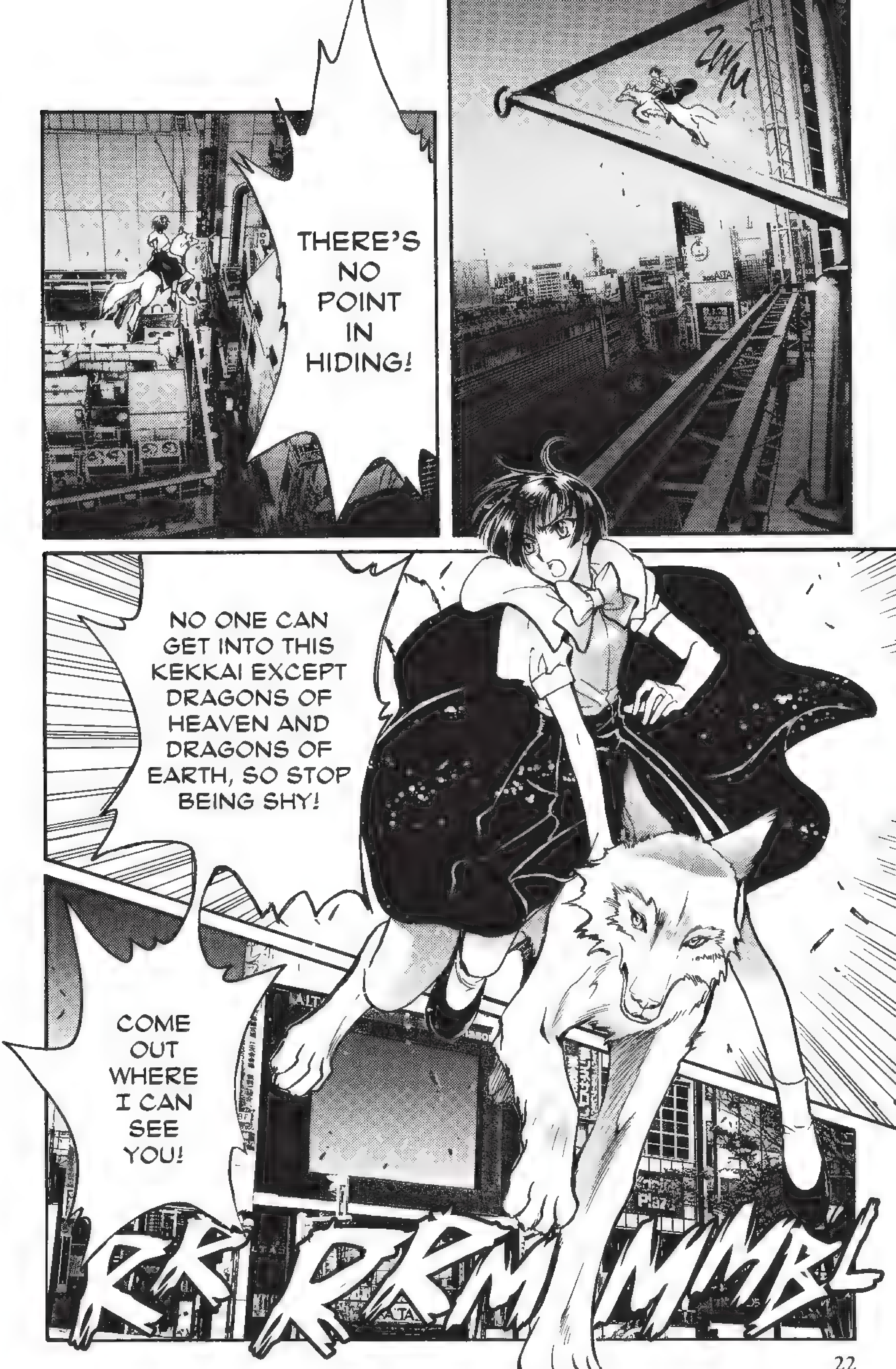

KRAKK
KRAK
KRA
KOOM

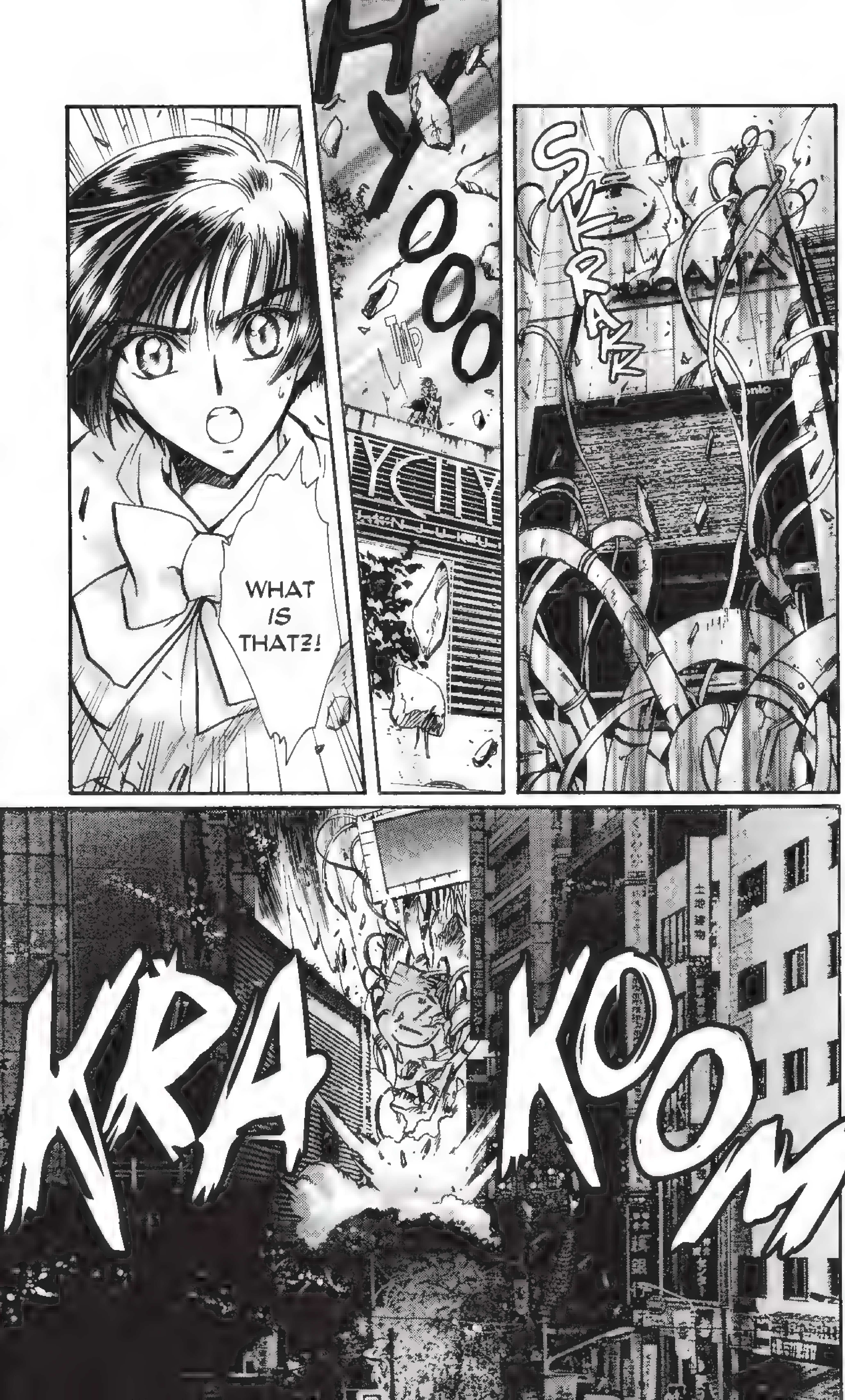

ZWAAAM
SNAP

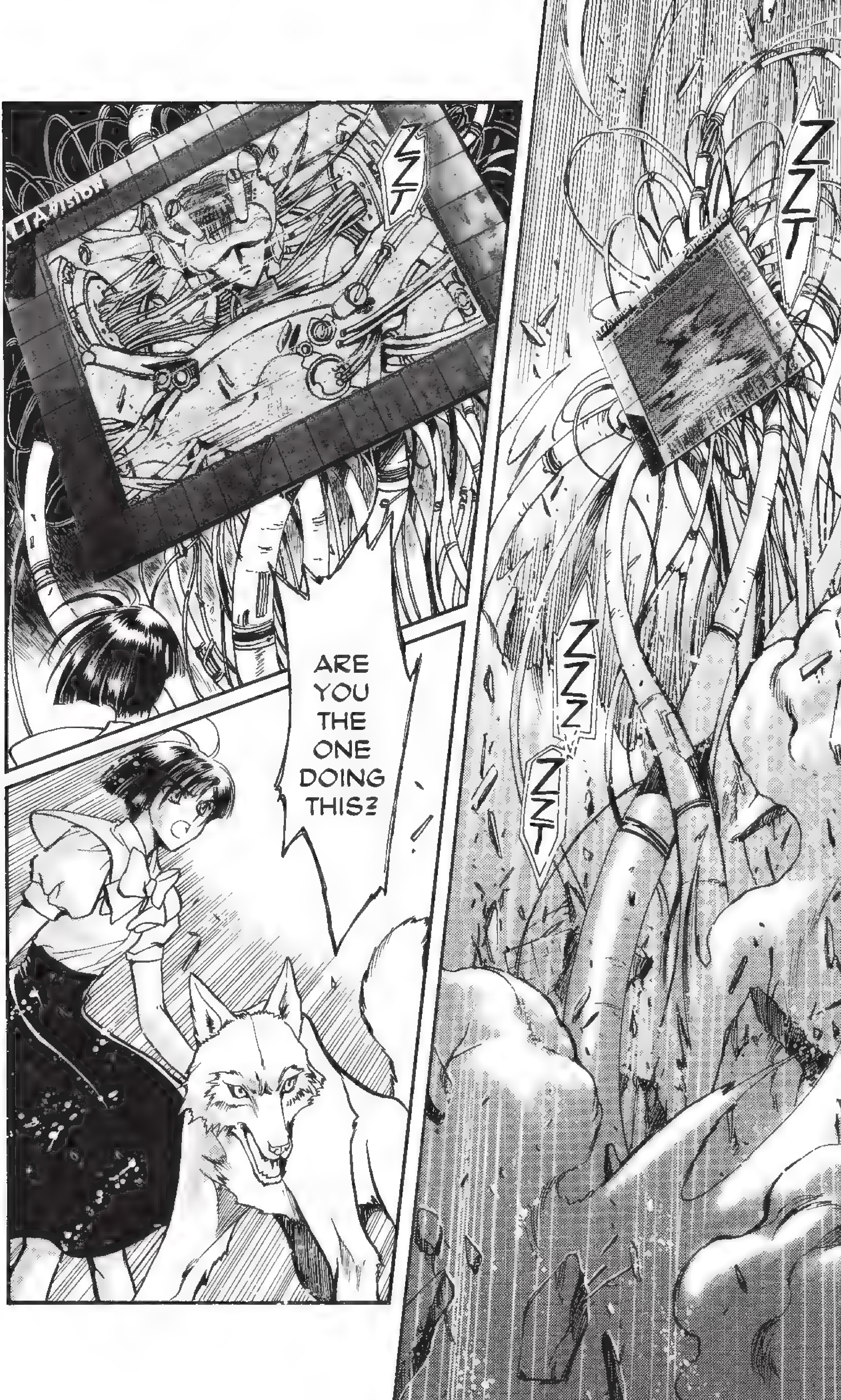

THWAK
THWAK

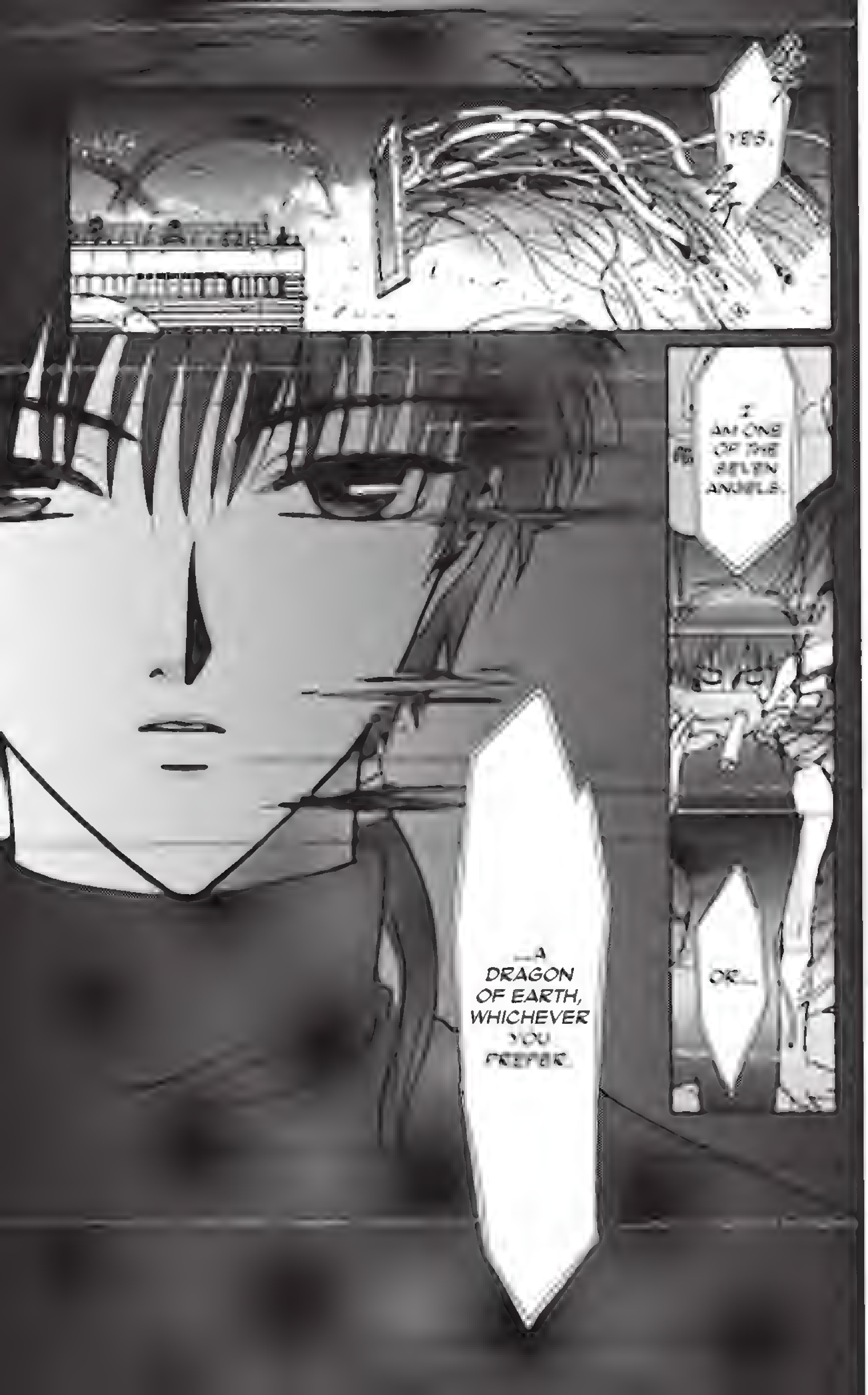

KRK
KRASH
STAY HERE AND PROTECT HIM!
ZWSH

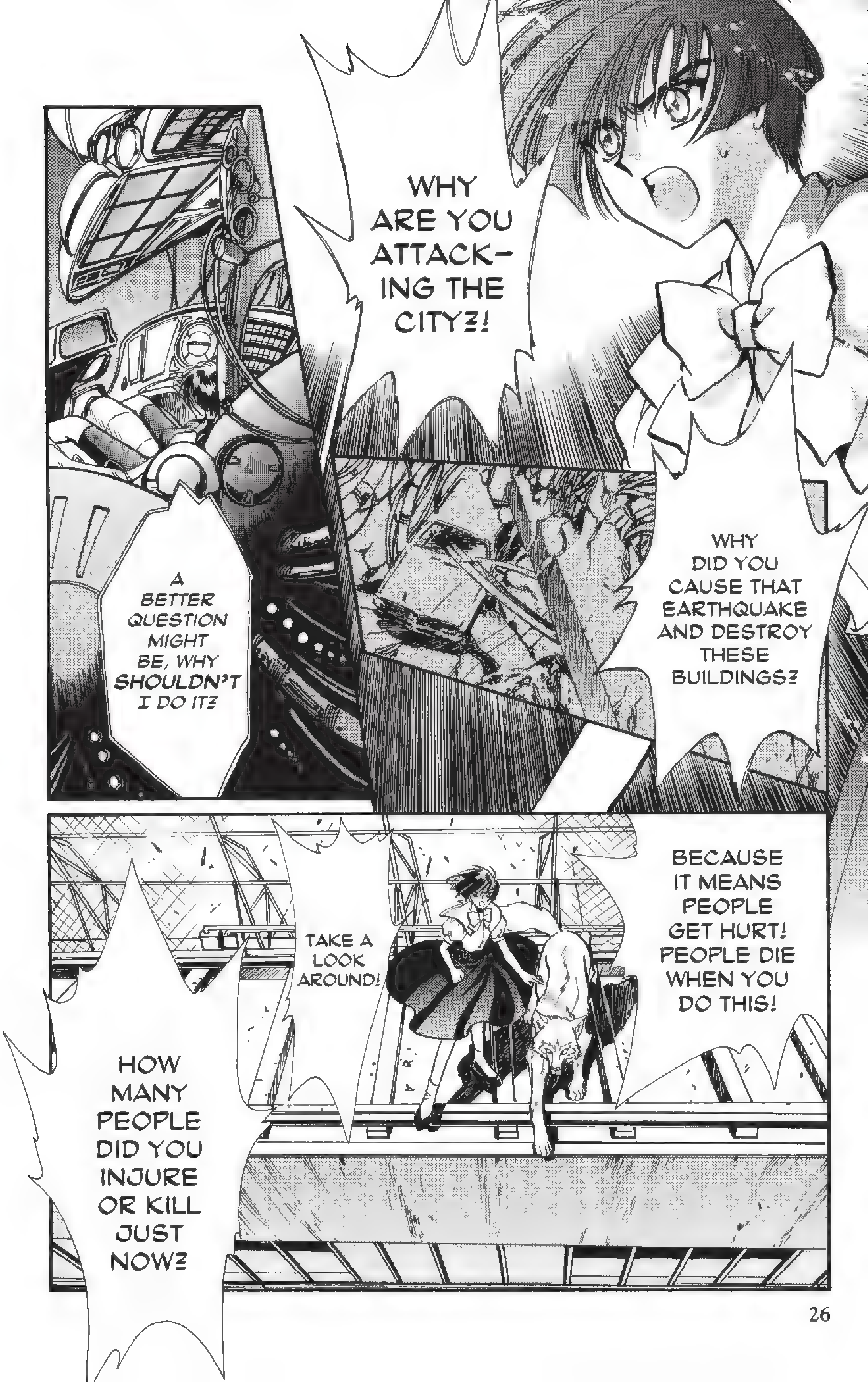

KAMUI!
VWW MM MM

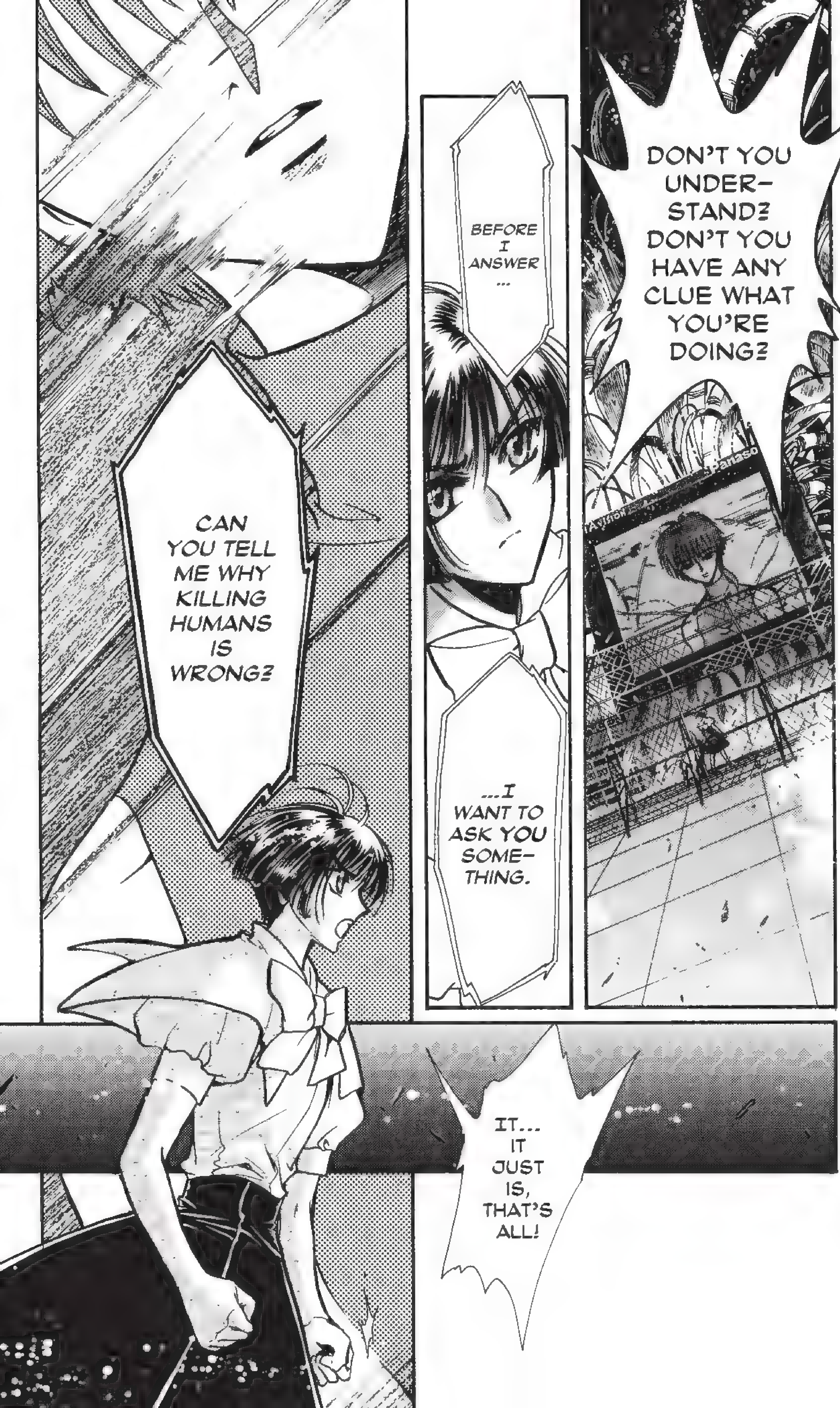

ZUM
THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING!
NO ONE CAN GET INTO THIS KEKKAI EXCEPT DRAGONS OF HEAVEN AND DRAGONS OF EARTH, SO STOP BEING SHY!
COME OUT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU!
RRRRMMMMBL

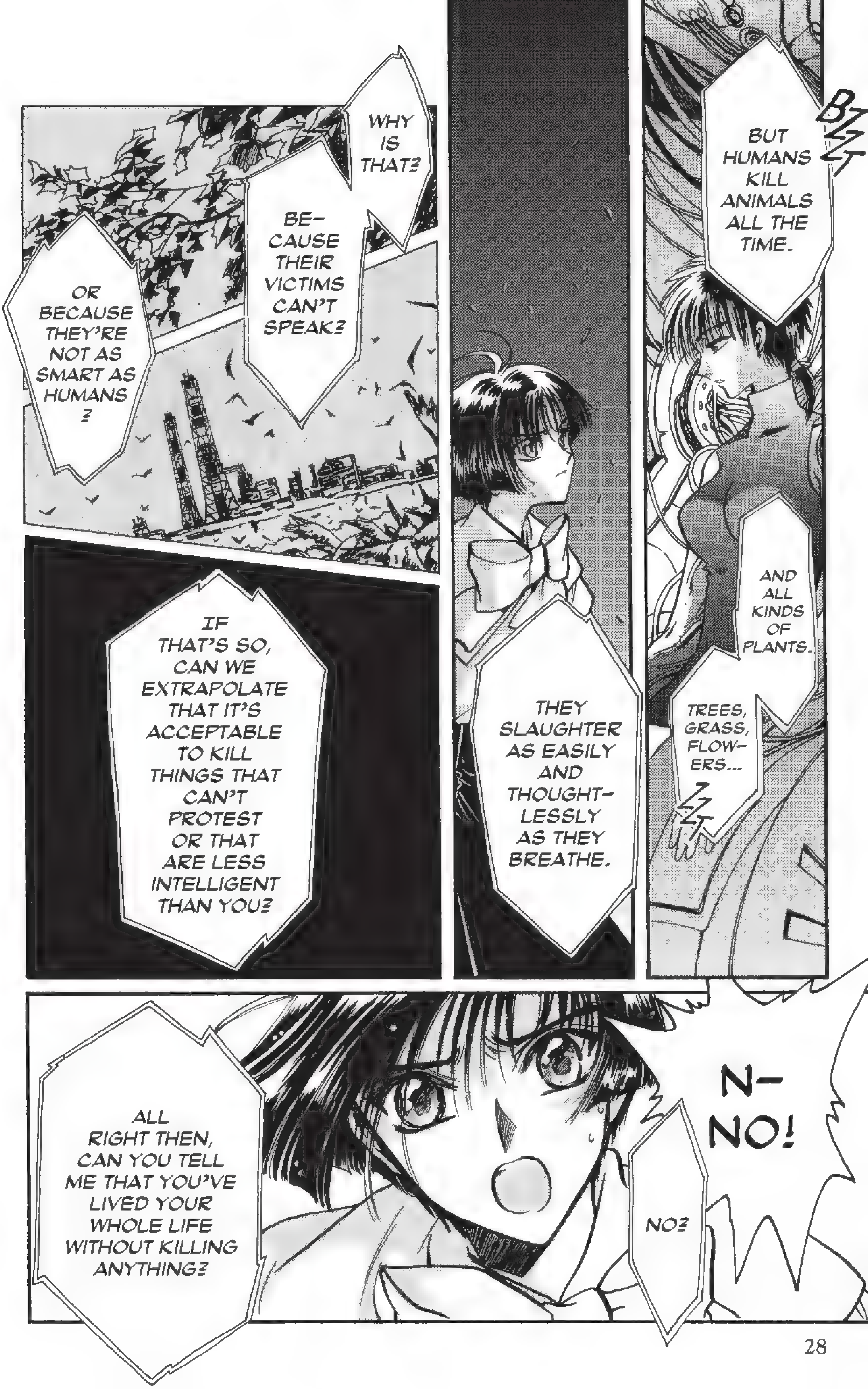

SHRAKK
HYOOOO
TMP
YCITY
WHAT IS THAT?!
KRA KOOM

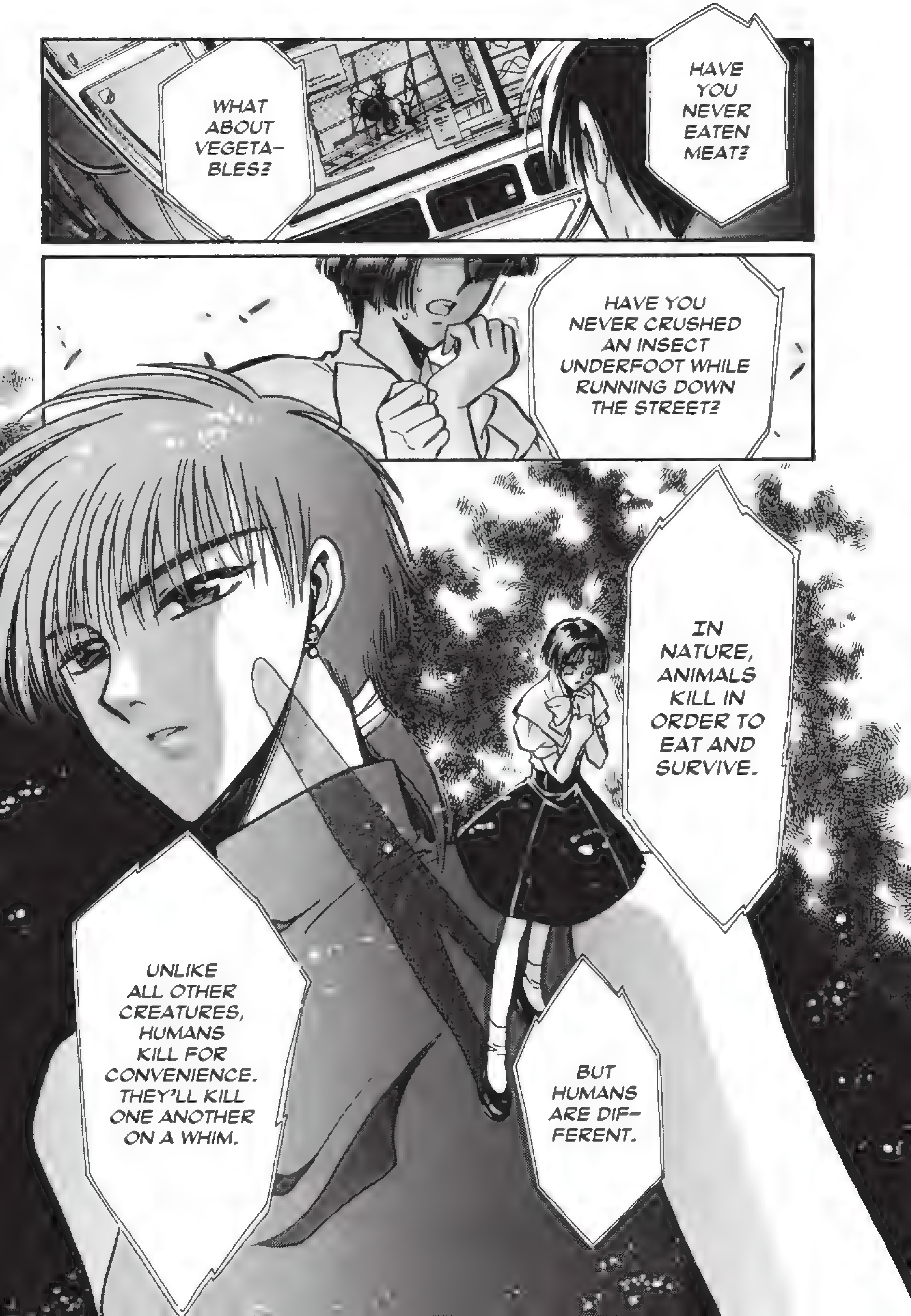

ZZT
ZZZZ
ZZT
ZZT
ALTAVision
ARE YOU THE ONE DOING THIS?

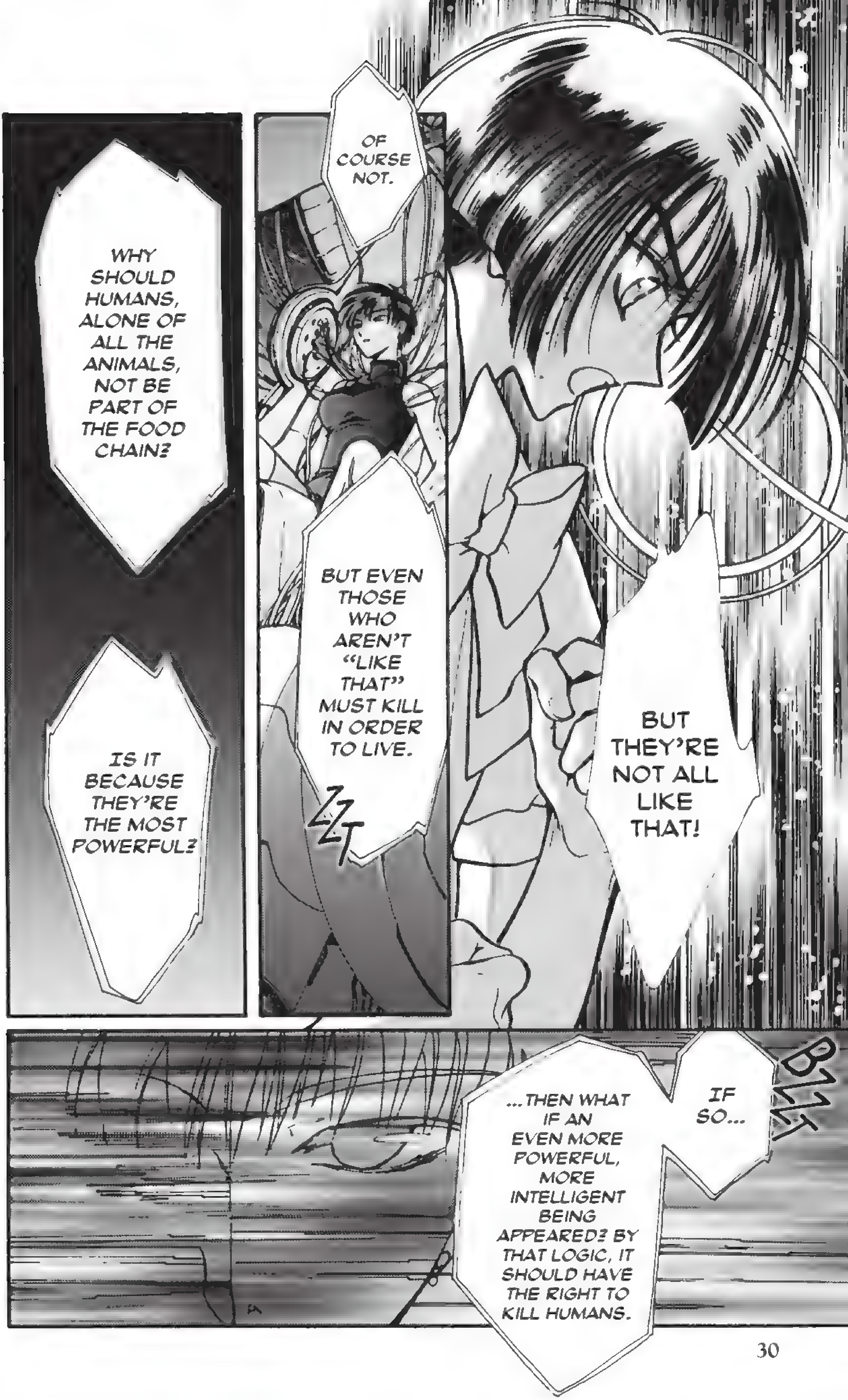

YES.
I AM ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.
OR...
...A DRAGON OF EARTH, WHICHEVER YOU PREFER.

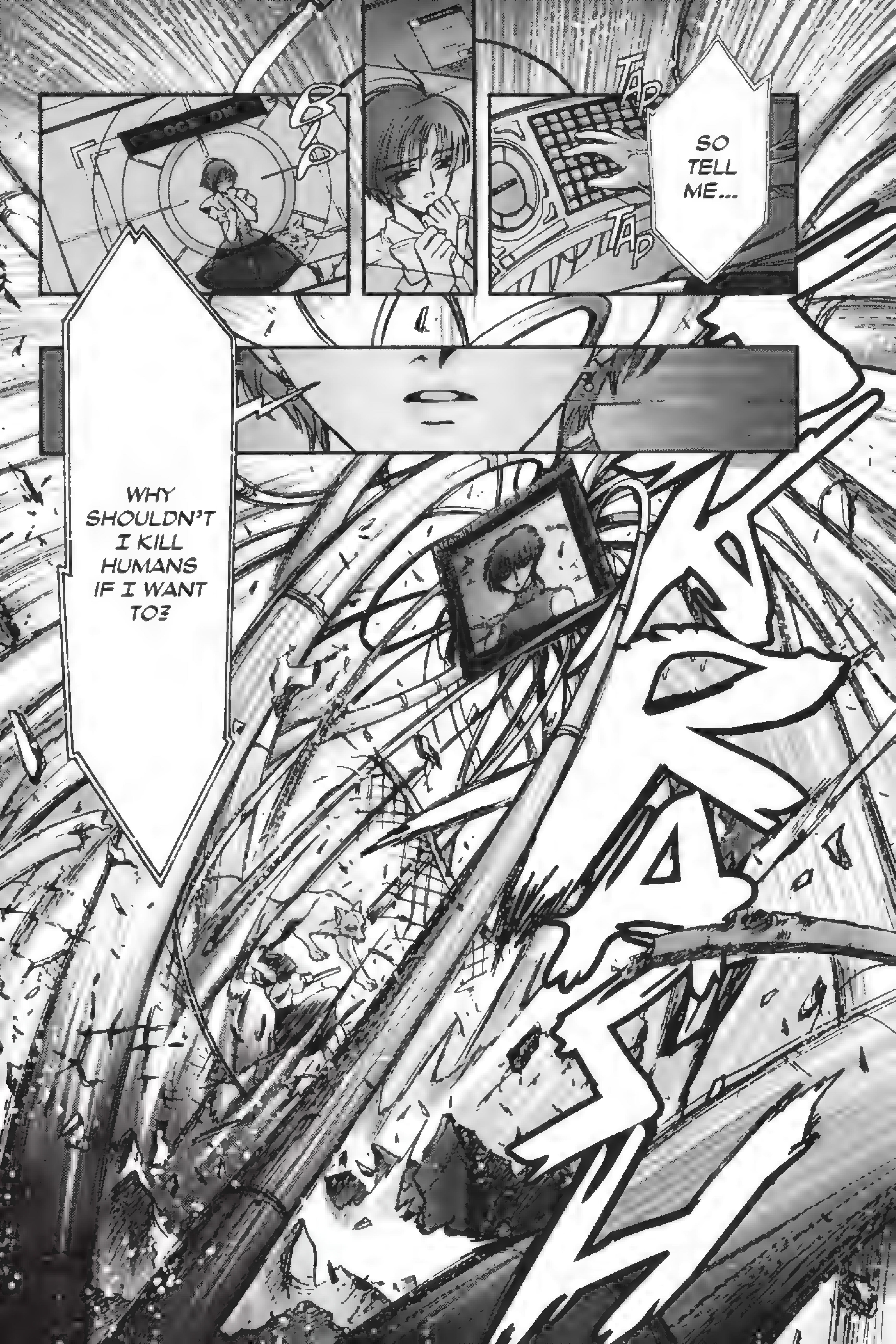

WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING THE CITY?!
A BETTER QUESTION MIGHT BE, WHY *SHOULDN'T* I DO IT?
WHY DID YOU CAUSE THAT EARTHQUAKE AND DESTROY THESE BUILDINGS?
BECAUSE IT MEANS PEOPLE GET HURT! PEOPLE DIE WHEN YOU DO THIS!
TAKE A LOOK AROUND!
HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU INJURE OR KILL JUST NOW?

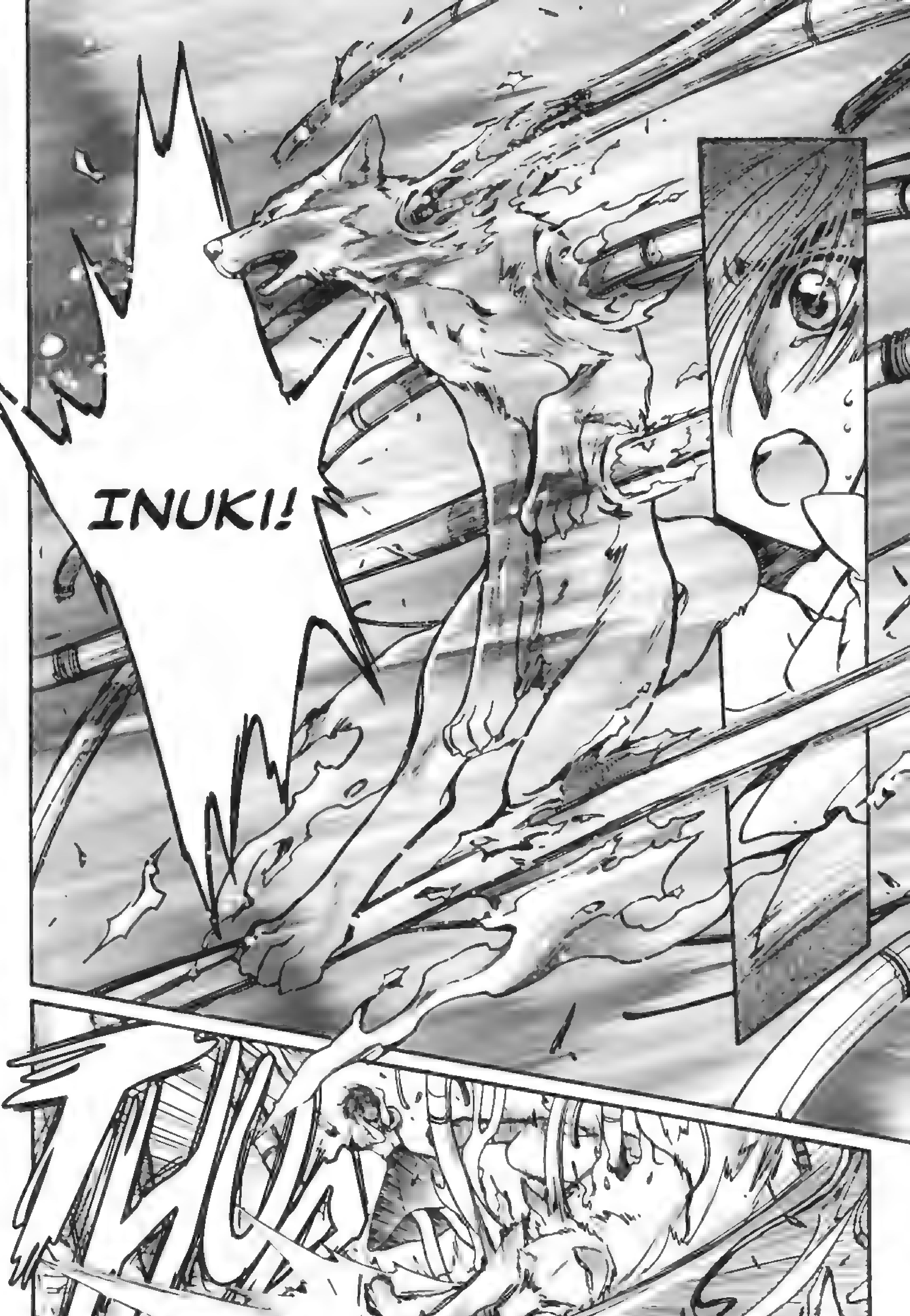

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CLUE WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
BEFORE I ANSWER...
...I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHY KILLING HUMANS IS WRONG?
IT... IT JUST IS, THAT'S ALL!


BZZT
BUT HUMANS KILL ANIMALS ALL THE TIME.
AND ALL KINDS OF PLANTS.
TREES, GRASS, FLOWERS...
ZZT
THEY SLAUGHTER AS EASILY AND THOUGHTLESSLY AS THEY BREATHE.
WHY IS THAT?
BECAUSE THEIR VICTIMS CAN'T SPEAK?
OR BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT AS SMART AS HUMANS?
IF THAT'S SO, CAN WE EXTRAPOLATE THAT IT'S ACCEPTABLE TO KILL THINGS THAT CAN'T PROTEST OR THAT ARE LESS INTELLIGENT THAN YOU?
N-NO!
NO?
ALL RIGHT THEN, CAN YOU TELL ME THAT YOU'VE LIVED YOUR WHOLE LIFE WITHOUT KILLING ANYTHING?

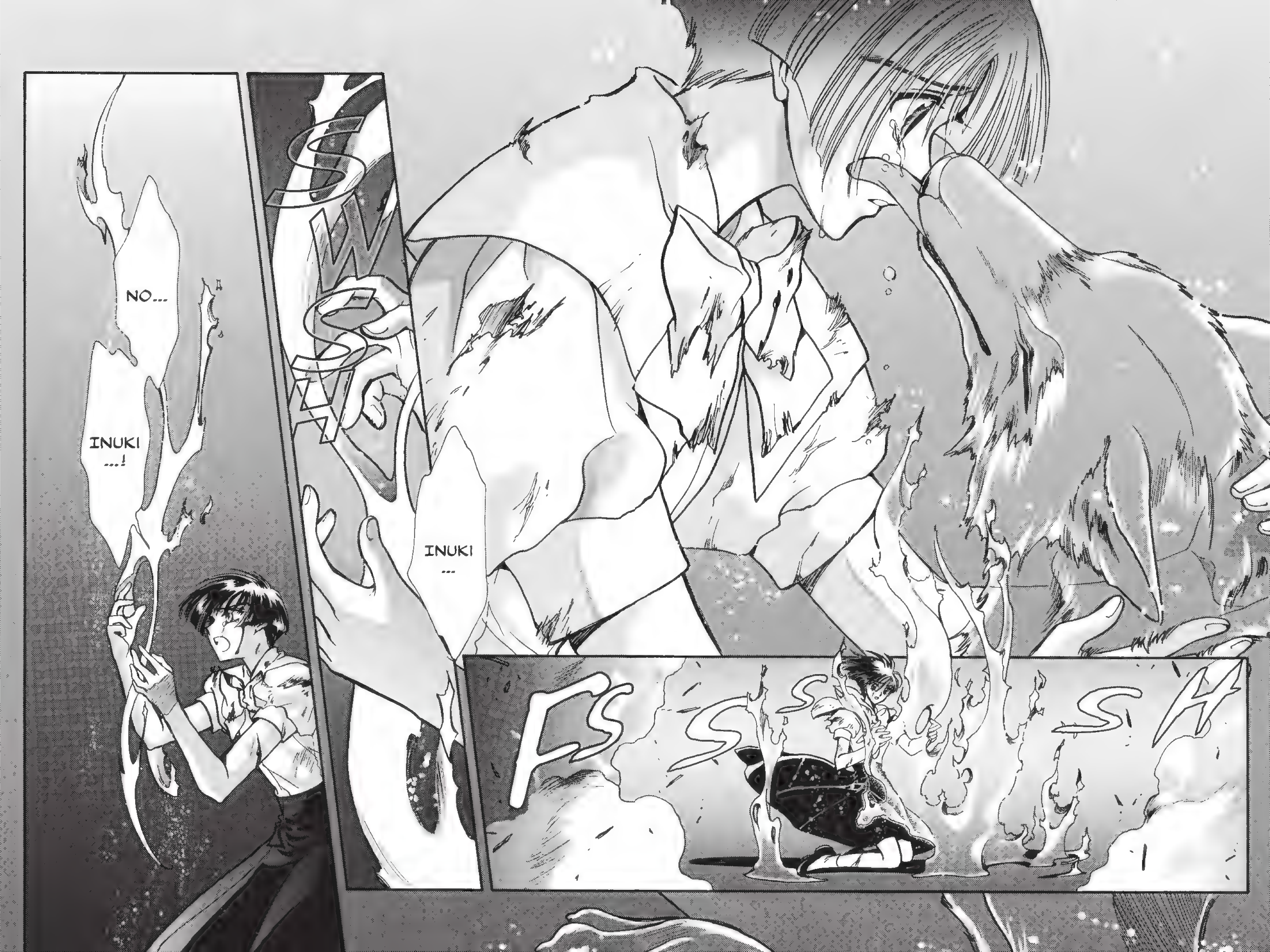

HAVE YOU NEVER EATEN MEAT?
WHAT ABOUT VEGETABLES?
HAVE YOU NEVER CRUSHED AN INSECT UNDERFOOT WHILE RUNNING DOWN THE STREET?
IN NATURE, ANIMALS KILL IN ORDER TO EAT AND SURVIVE.
BUT HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT.
UNLIKE ALL OTHER CREATURES, HUMANS KILL FOR CONVENIENCE. THEY'LL KILL ONE ANOTHER ON A WHIM.

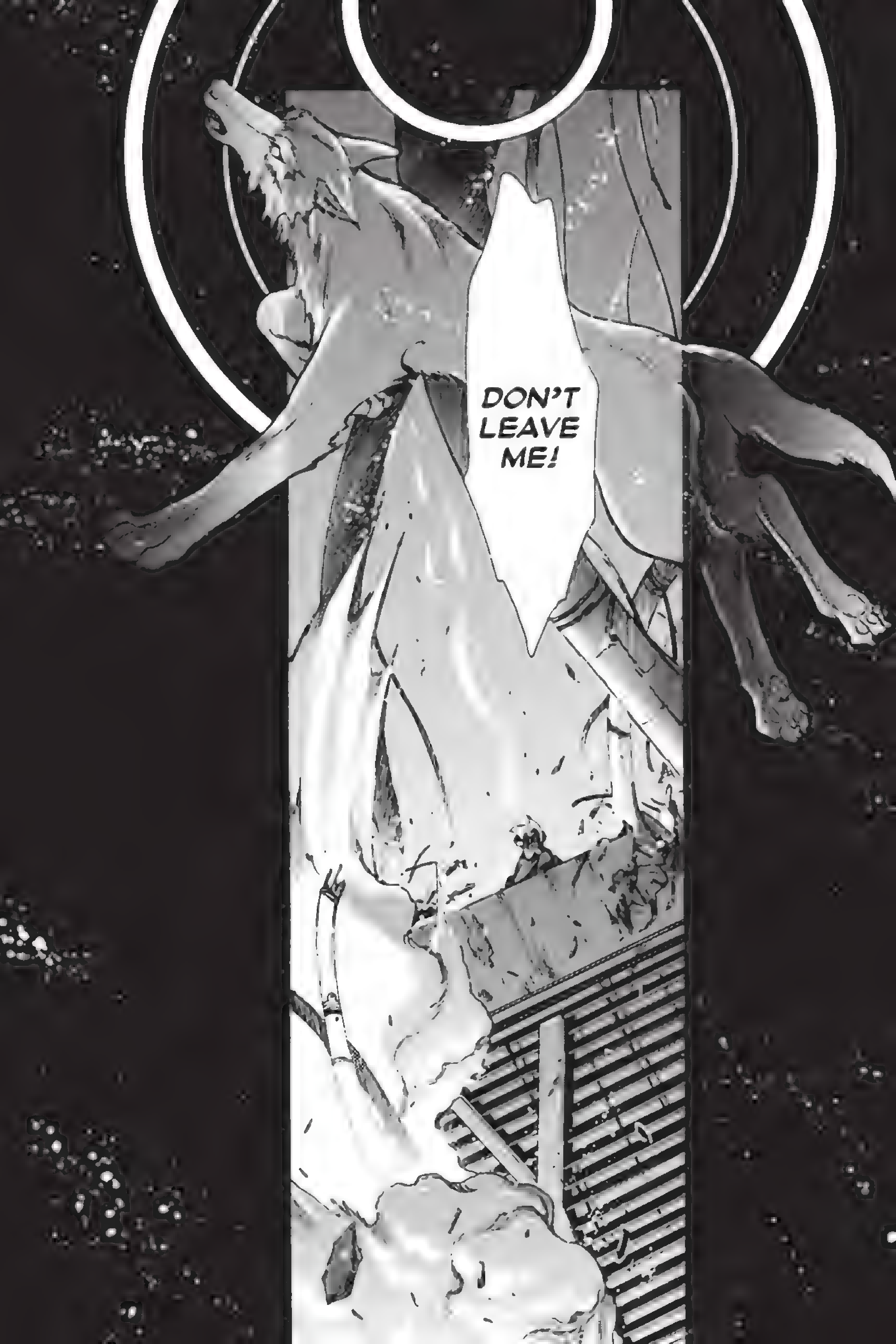

BUT THEY'RE NOT ALL LIKE THAT!
OF COURSE NOT.
BUT EVEN THOSE WHO AREN'T "LIKE THAT" MUST KILL IN ORDER TO LIVE.
ZZT
WHY SHOULD HUMANS, ALONE OF ALL THE ANIMALS, NOT BE PART OF THE FOOD CHAIN?
IS IT BECAUSE THEY'RE THE MOST POWERFUL?
BZZT
IF SO...
...THEN WHAT IF AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL, MORE INTELLIGENT BEING APPEARED? BY THAT LOGIC, IT SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO KILL HUMANS.

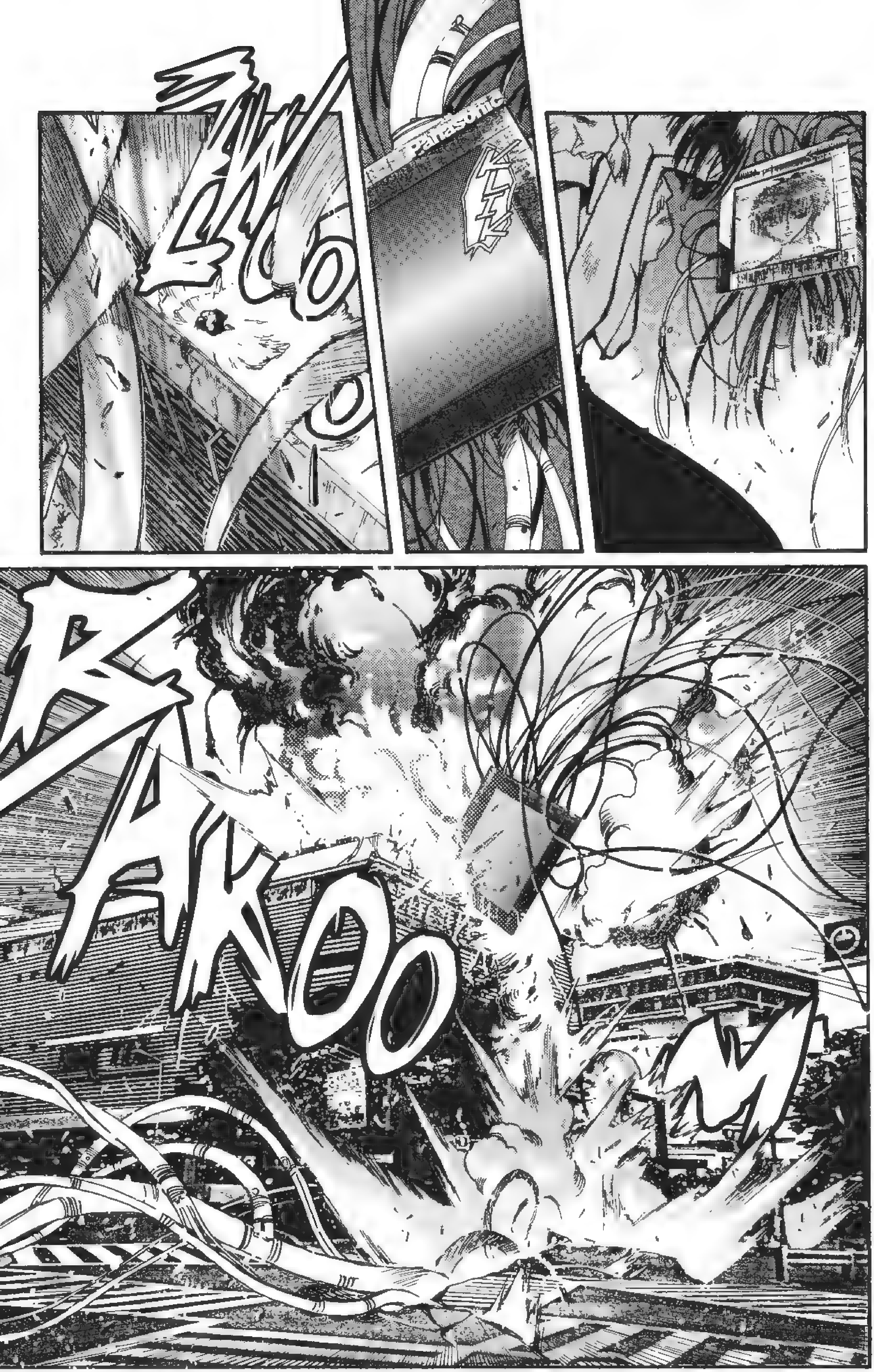

TAP
SO TELL ME...
TAP
BLIP
LOG ON
WHY SHOULDN'T I KILL HUMANS IF I WANT TO?
KRASH

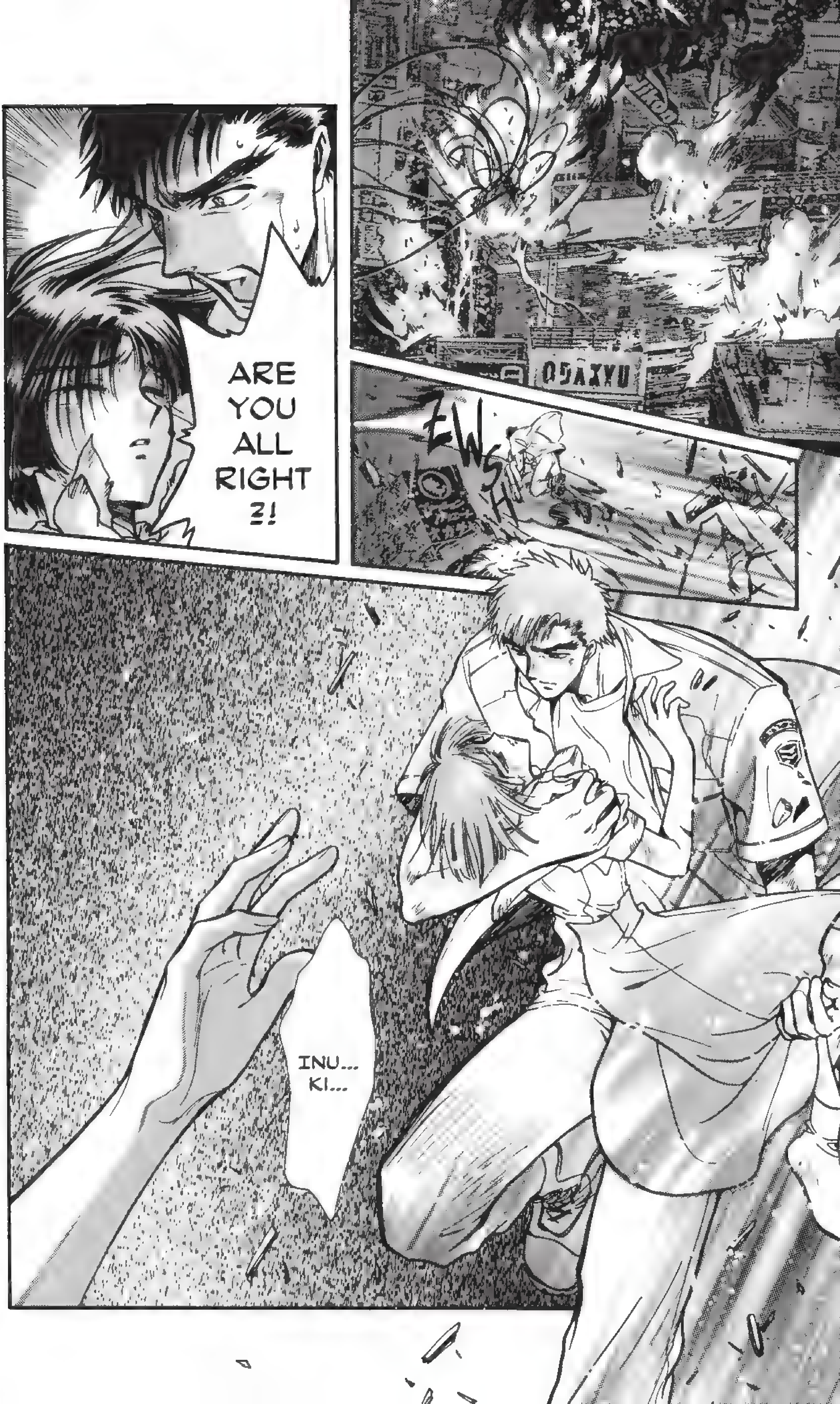

INUKI!

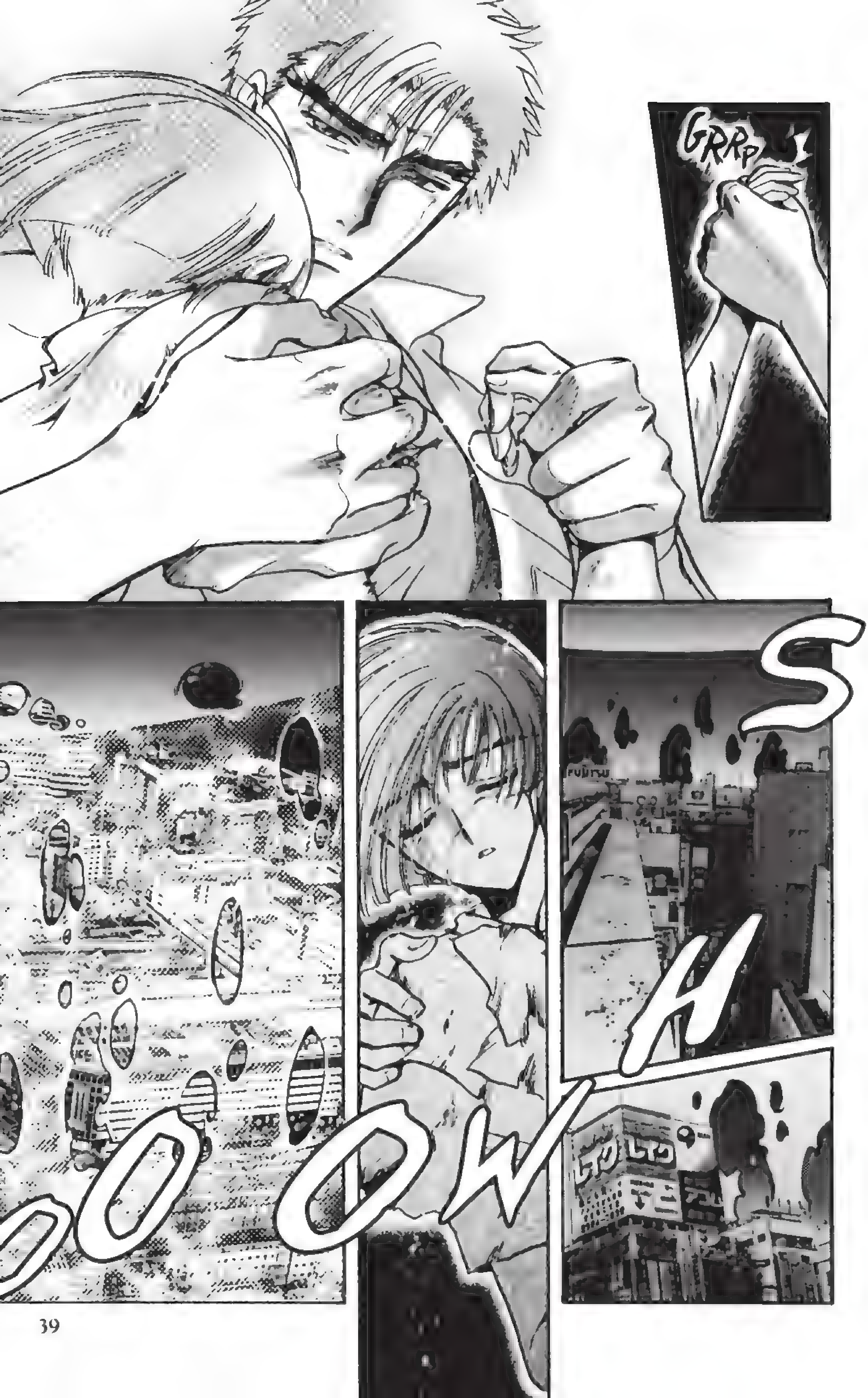
RRRRRM MMBL
INUKI!
INUKI!

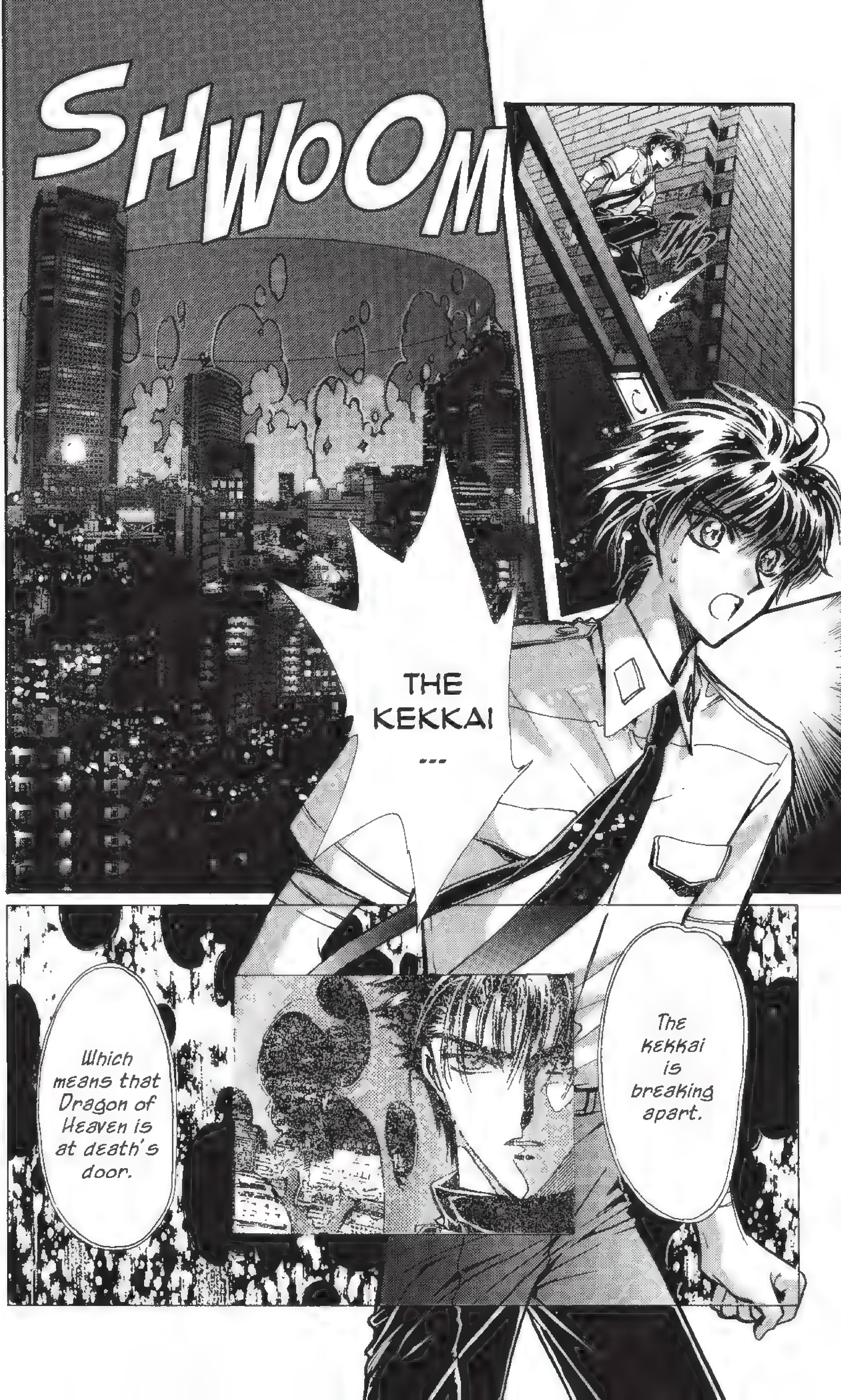

INUKI ---
FSSSSH
SWSH
NO...
INUKI ---!

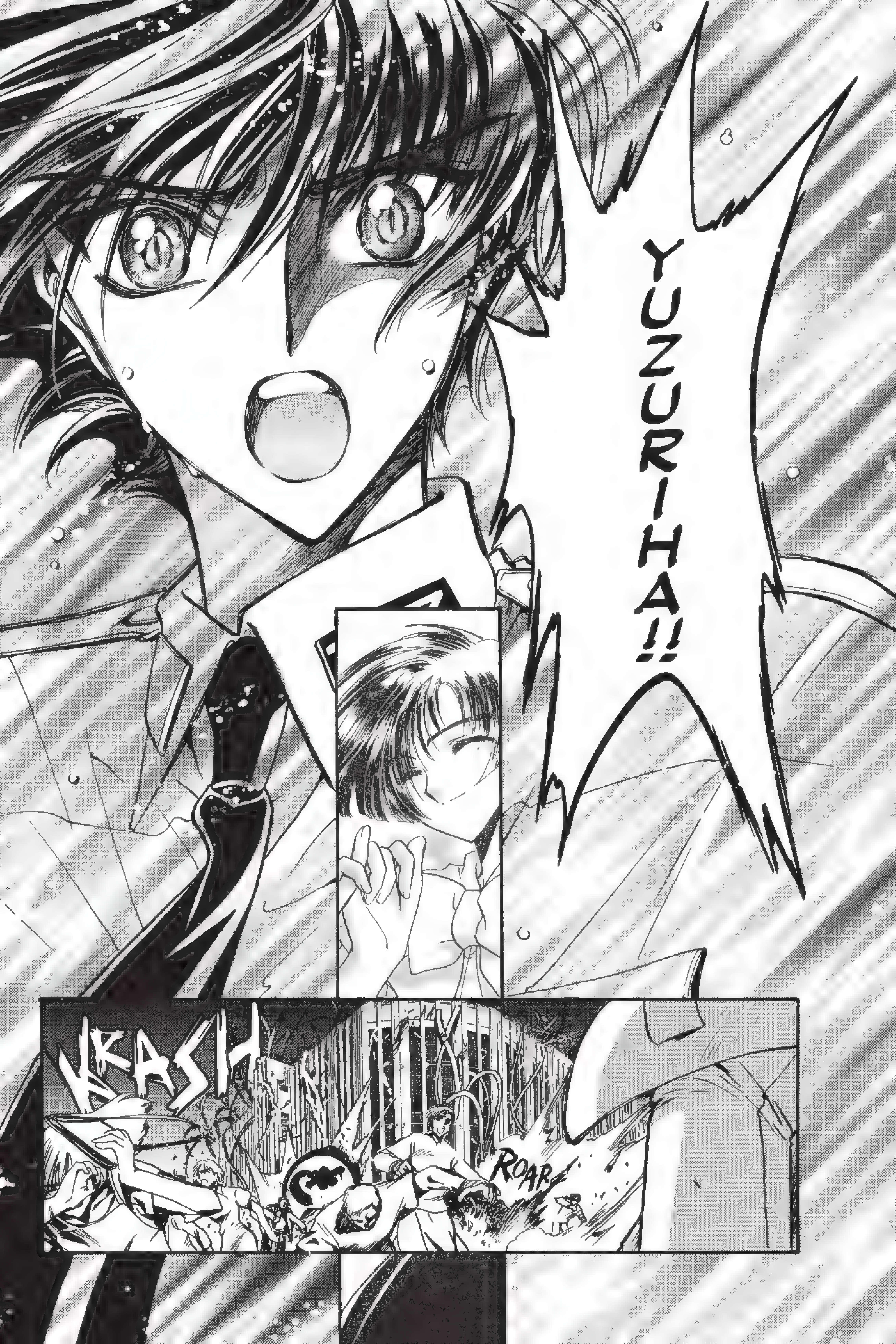

DON'T LEAVE ME!

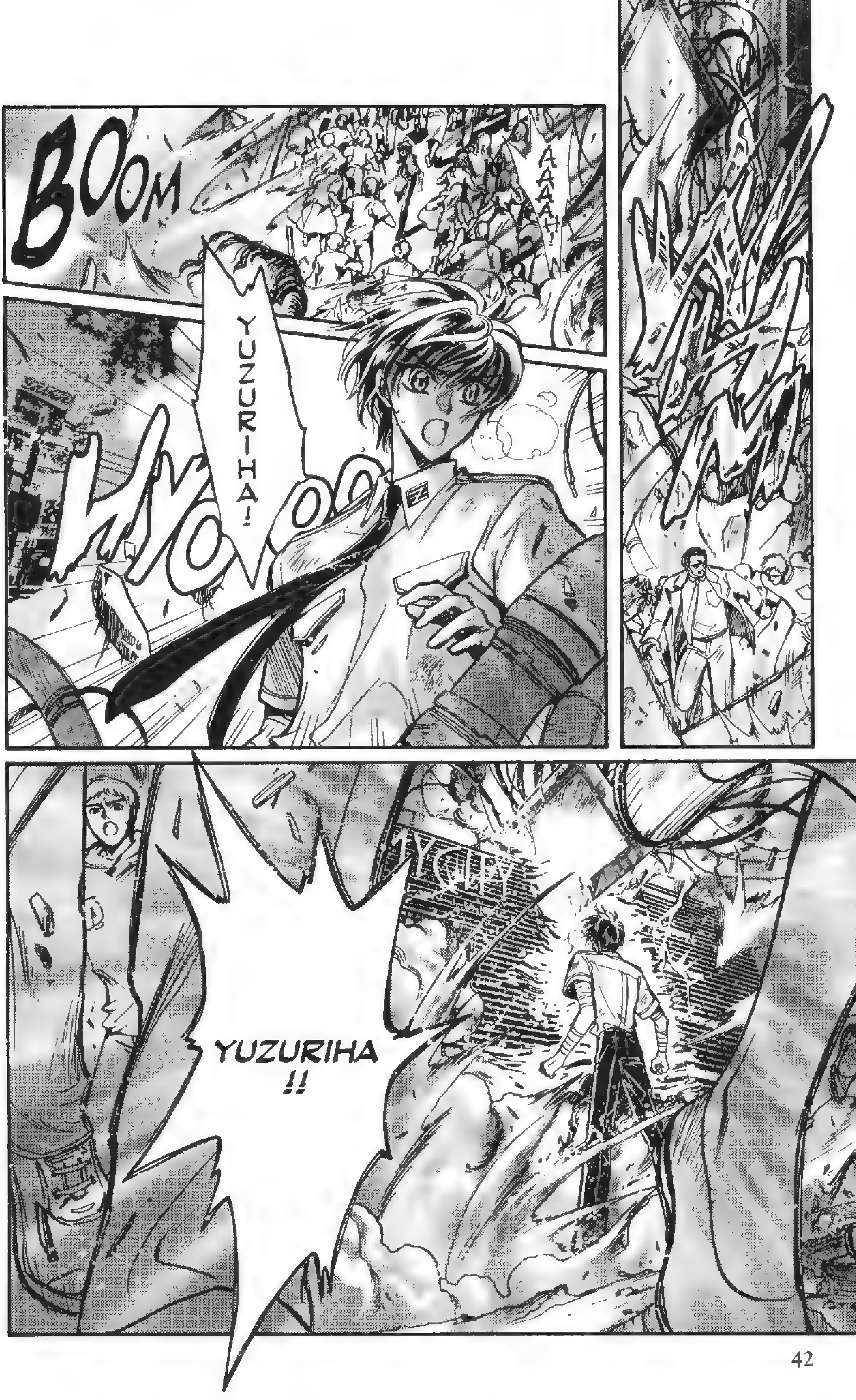

ZWOOO
Panasonic
BAKOOOM

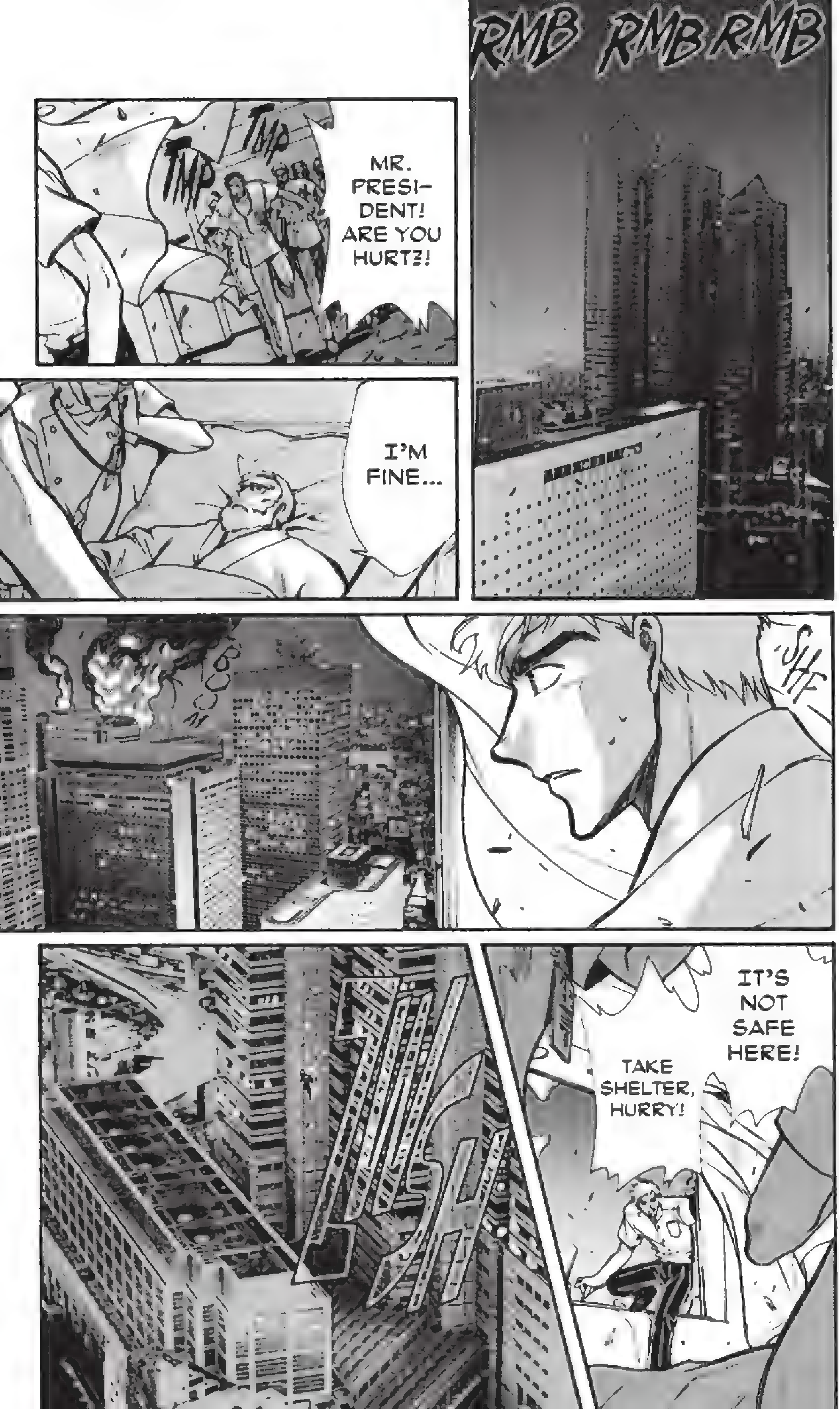

ODAKYU
EWS
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!
INU... KI...

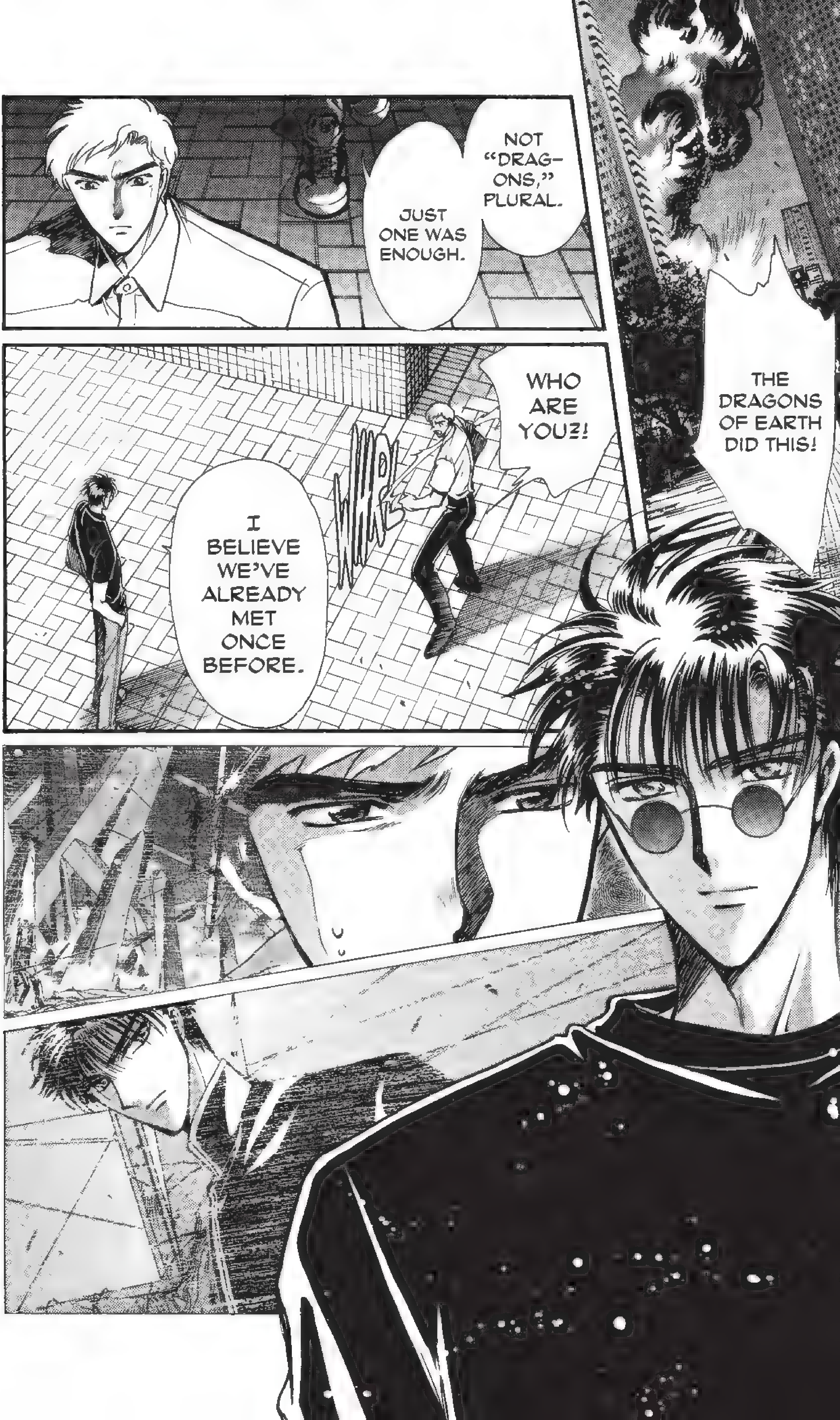

GRRP
SHWOOO

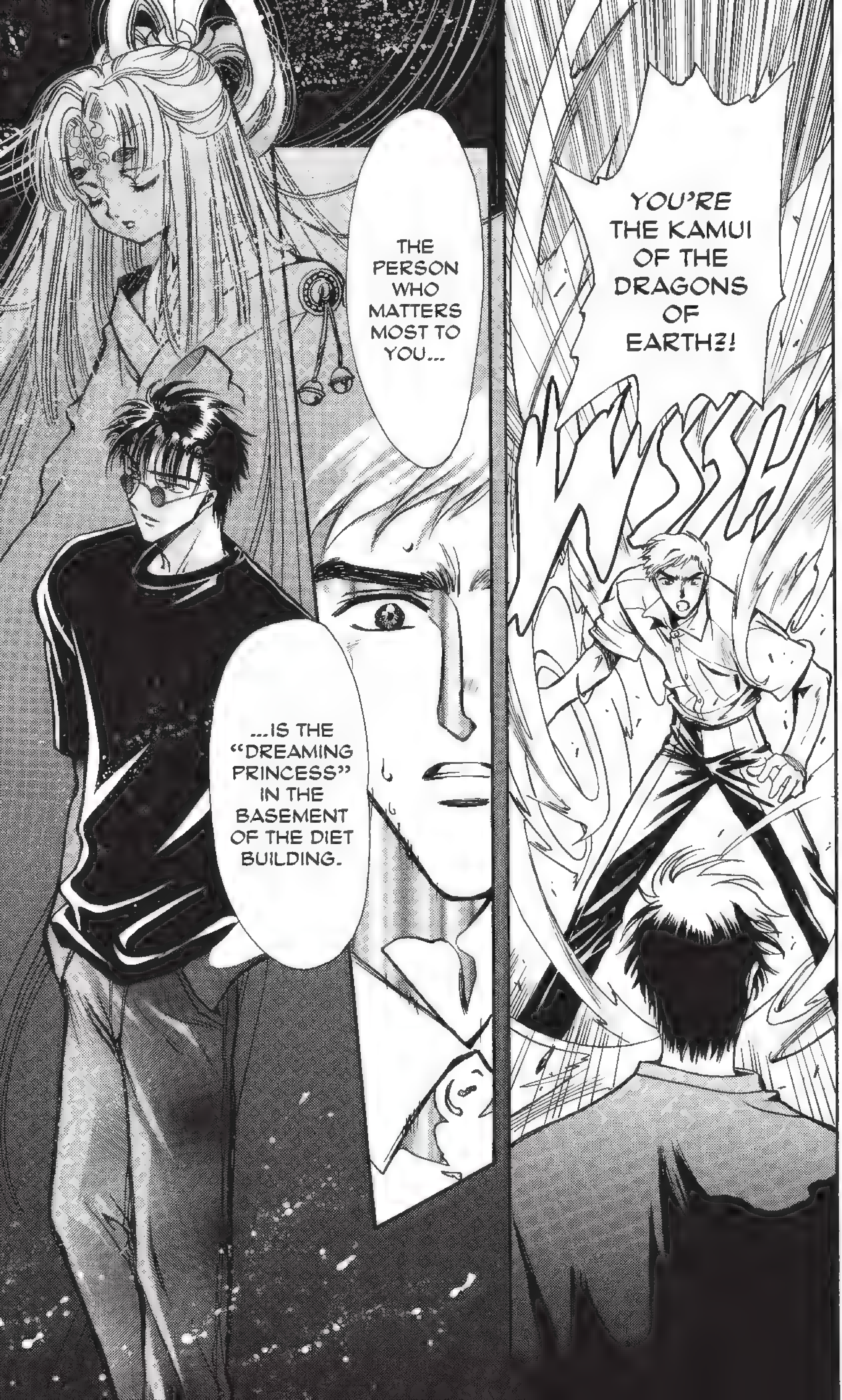

SHWOOM
THE KEKKAI ...
The kekkai is breaking apart.
Which means that Dragon of Heaven is at death's door.

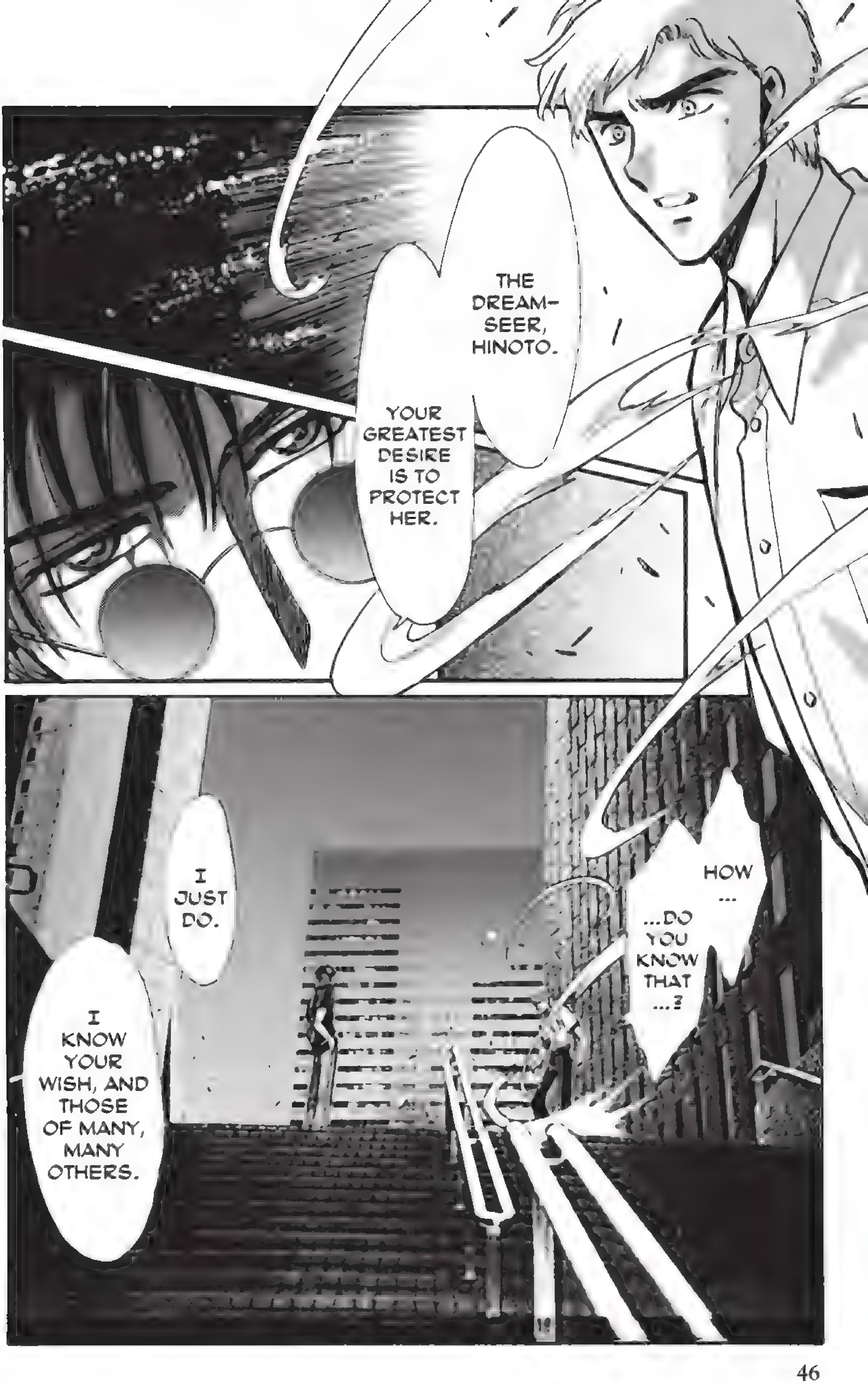

YUZURIHA!!
KRASH
ROAR

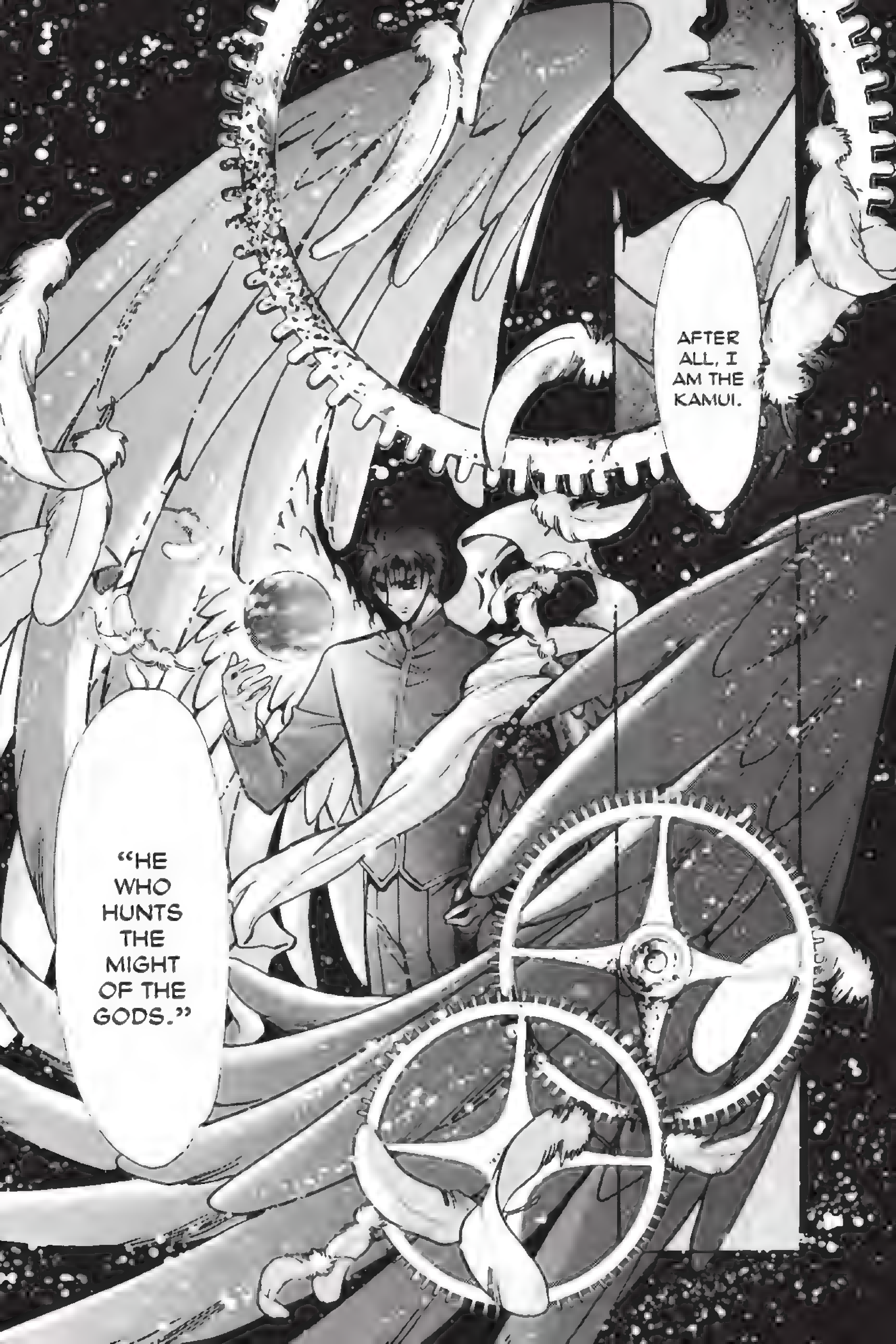

BOOM
AAAAAH!
YUZURIHA!
WHOOO
YUZURIHA !!

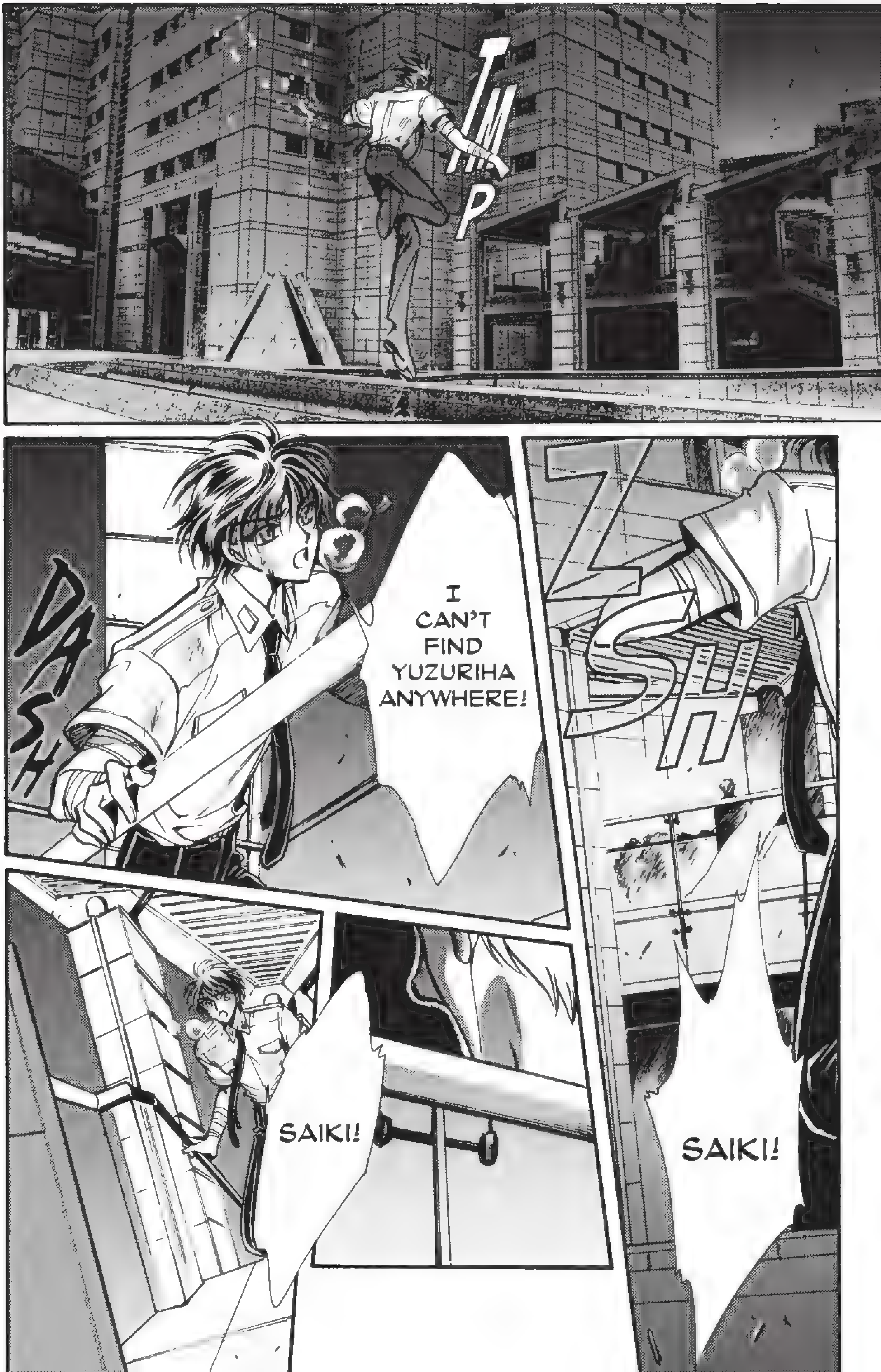

RMB RMB RMB
TMP TMP
MR. PRESIDENT! ARE YOU HURT?!
I'M FINE...
SHF
IT'S NOT SAFE HERE!
TAKE SHELTER, HURRY!

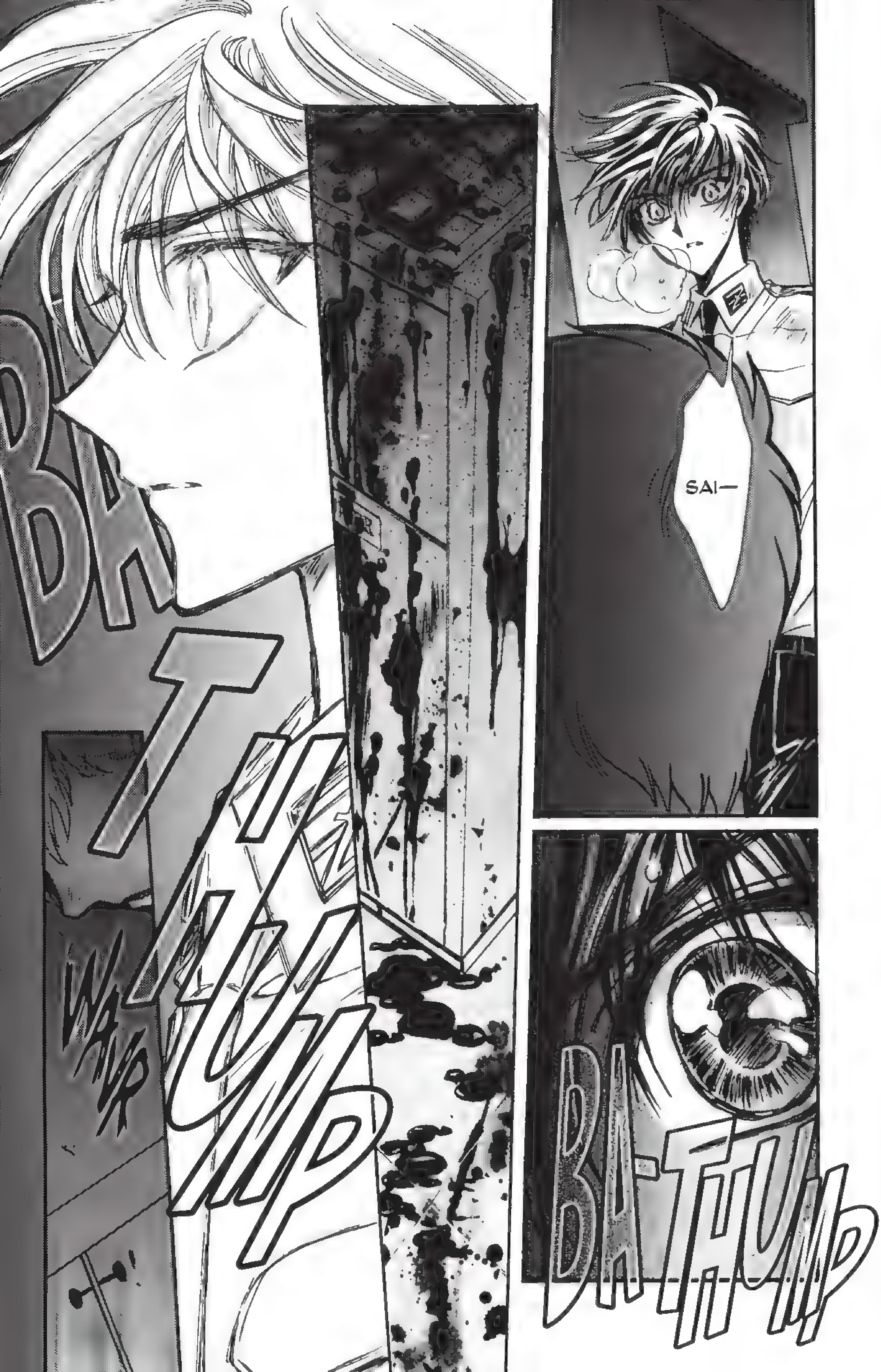

THE DRAGONS OF EARTH DID THIS!
NOT "DRAGONS," PLURAL.
JUST ONE WAS ENOUGH.
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAP!
I BELIEVE WE'VE ALREADY MET ONCE BEFORE.

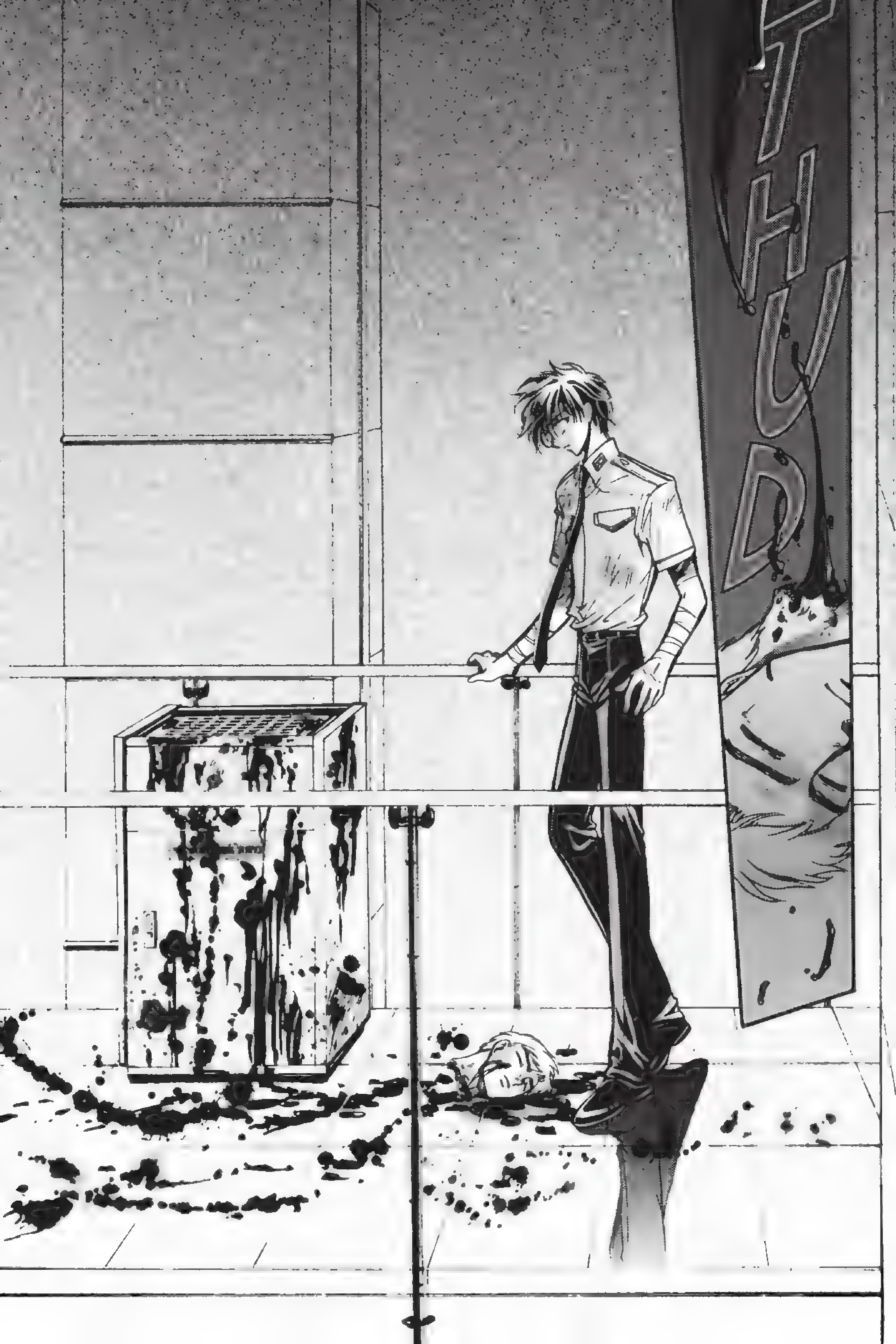

YOU'RE THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH?!
WSSSH
THE PERSON WHO MATTERS MOST TO YOU...
...IS THE "DREAMING PRINCESS" IN THE BASEMENT OF THE DIET BUILDING.

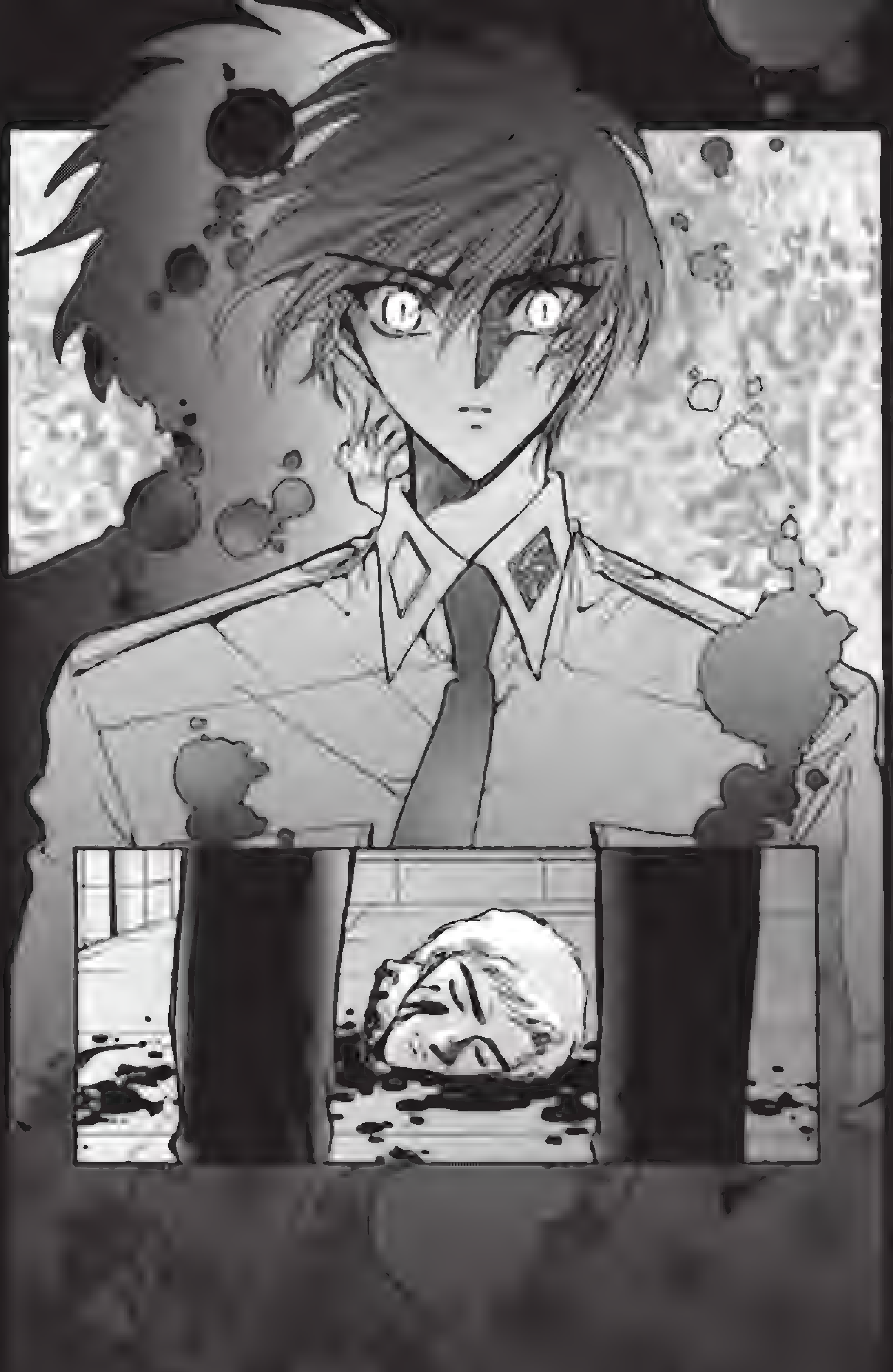

THE DREAMSEER, HINOTO.
YOUR GREATEST DESIRE IS TO PROTECT HER.
HOW ...
...DO YOU KNOW THAT ...?
I JUST DO.
I KNOW YOUR WISH, AND THOSE OF MANY, MANY OTHERS.

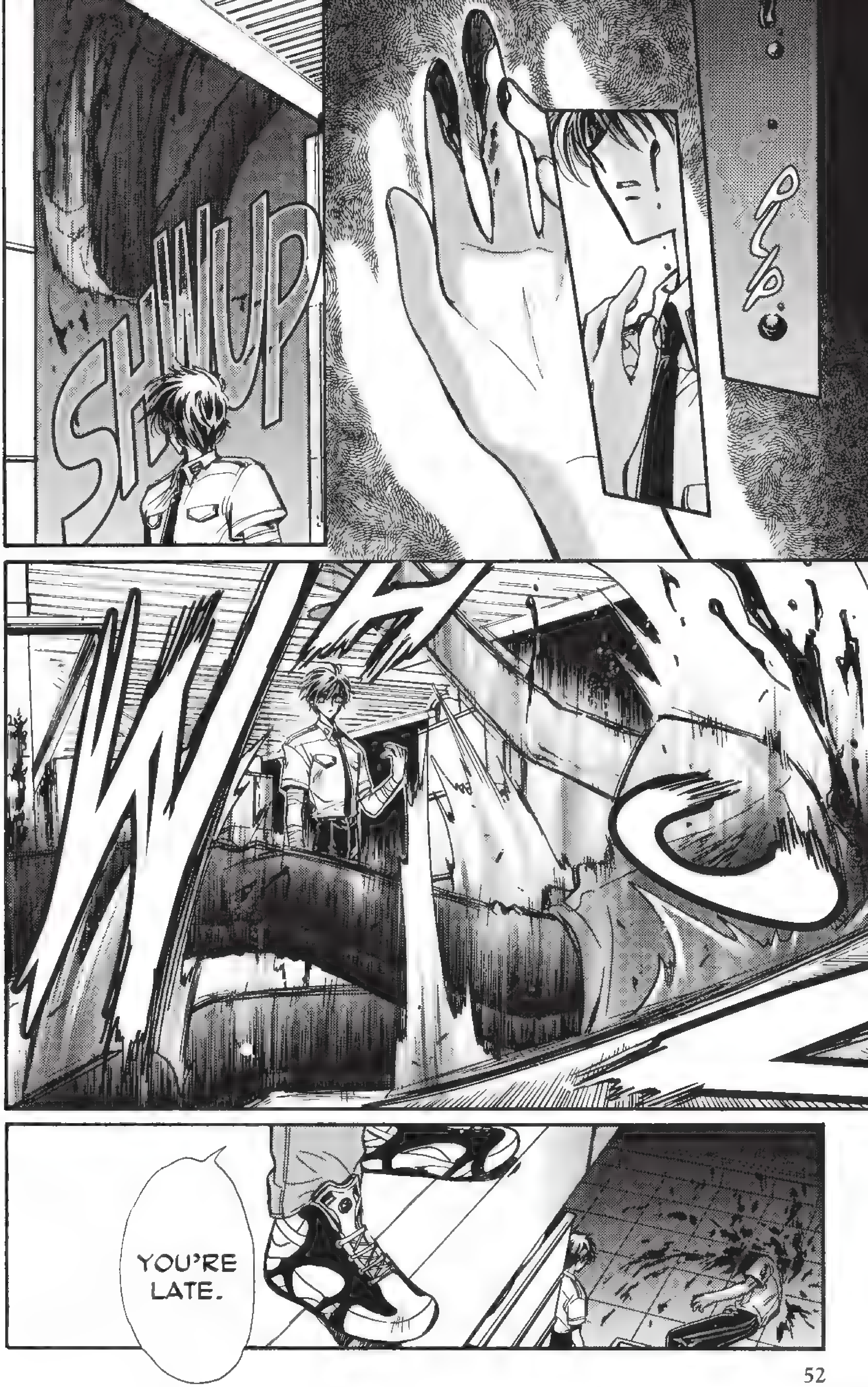

AFTER ALL, I AM THE KAMUI.
"HE WHO HUNTS THE MIGHT OF THE GODS."

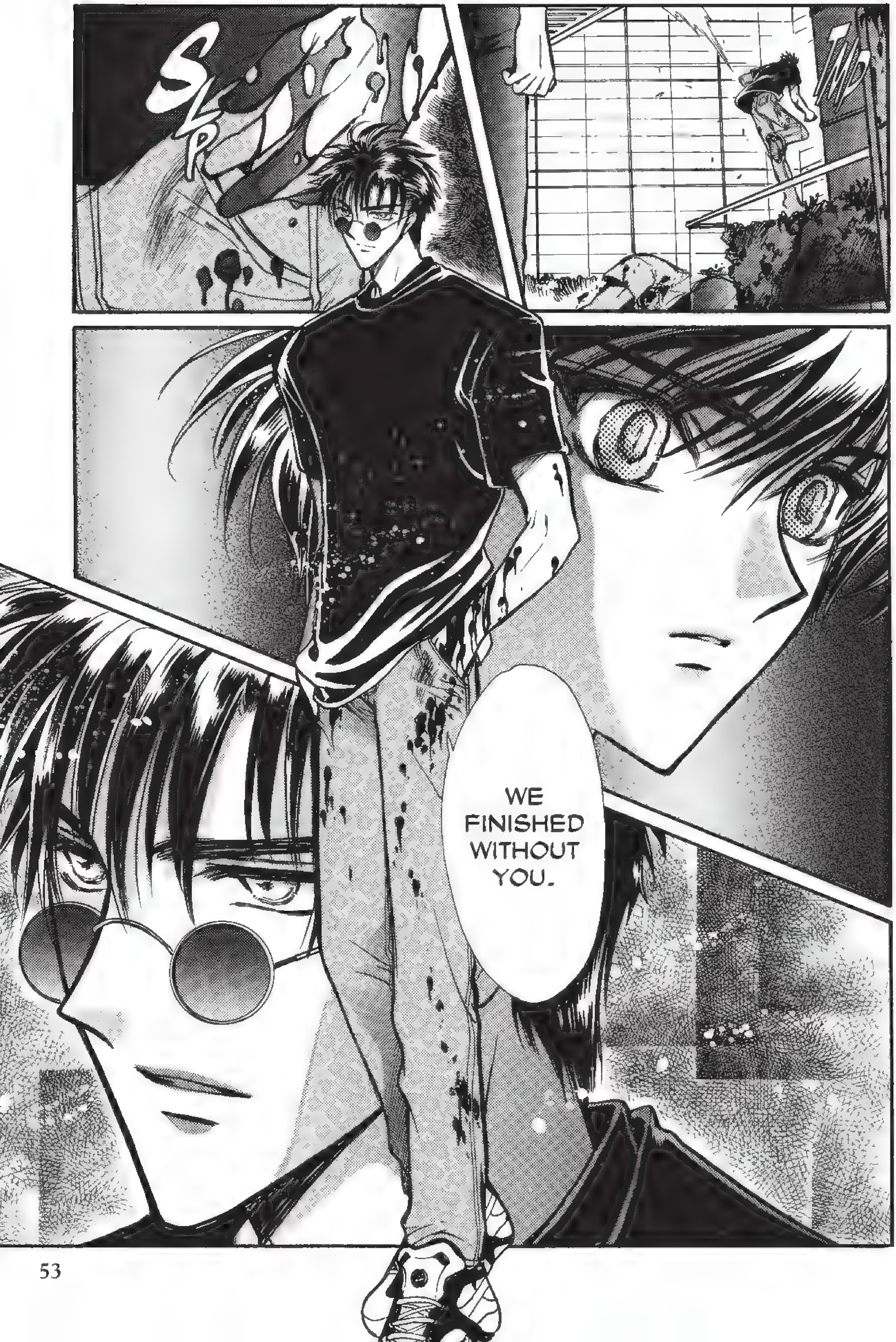

TMP
ZSH
SAIKI!
DASH
I CAN'T FIND YUZURIHA ANYWHERE!
SAIKI!

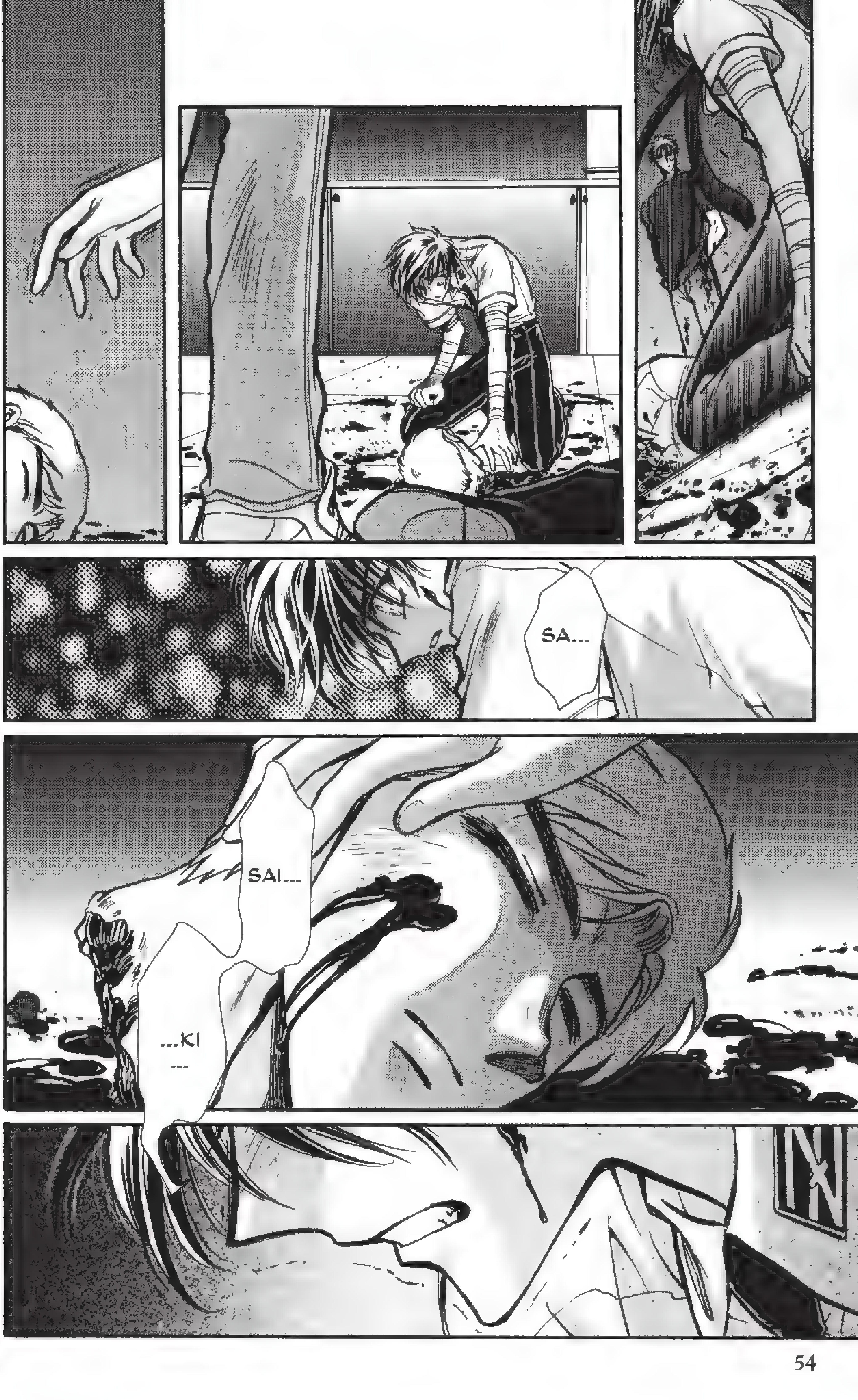

SAI—
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
WHIR

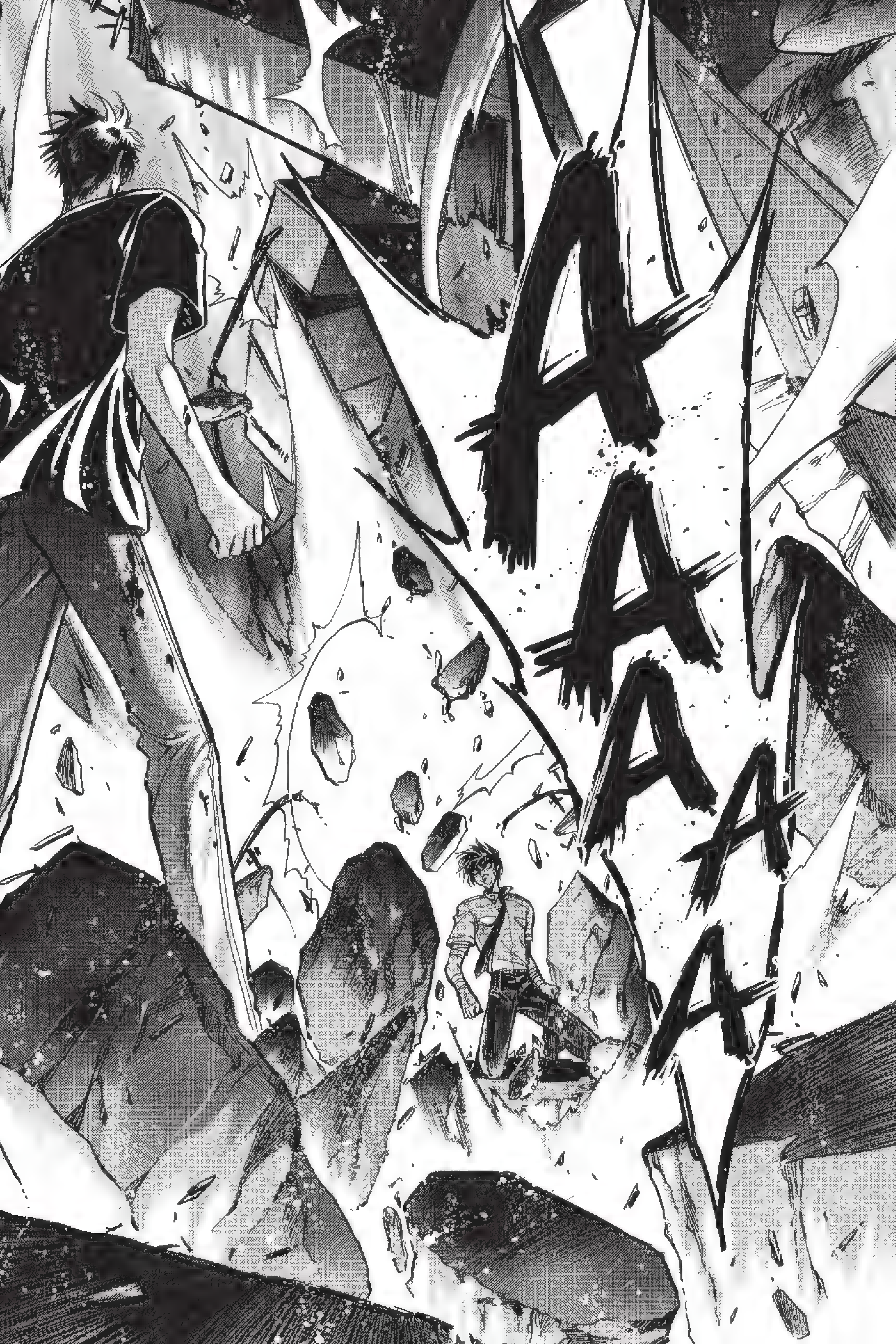

THUD

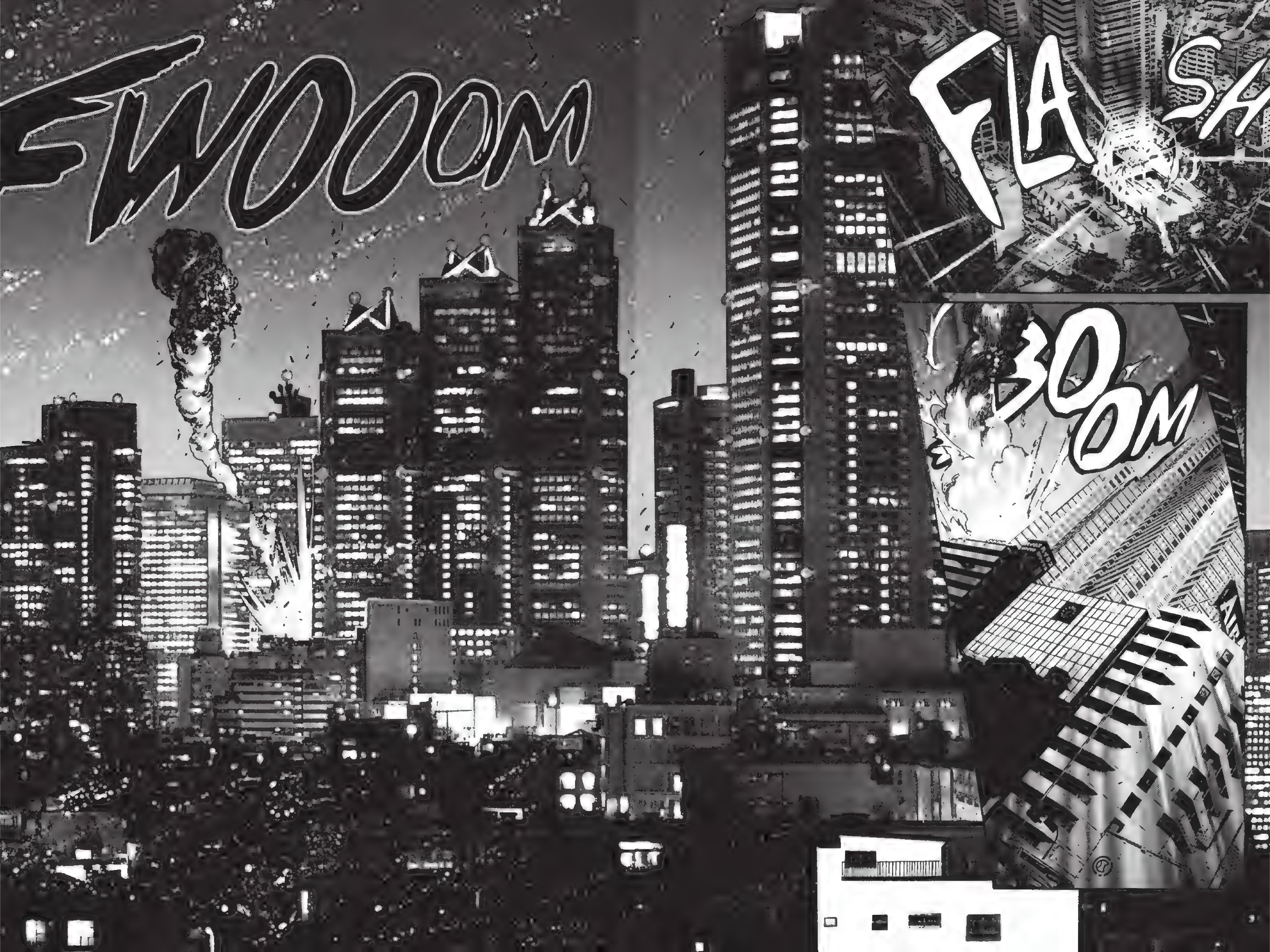


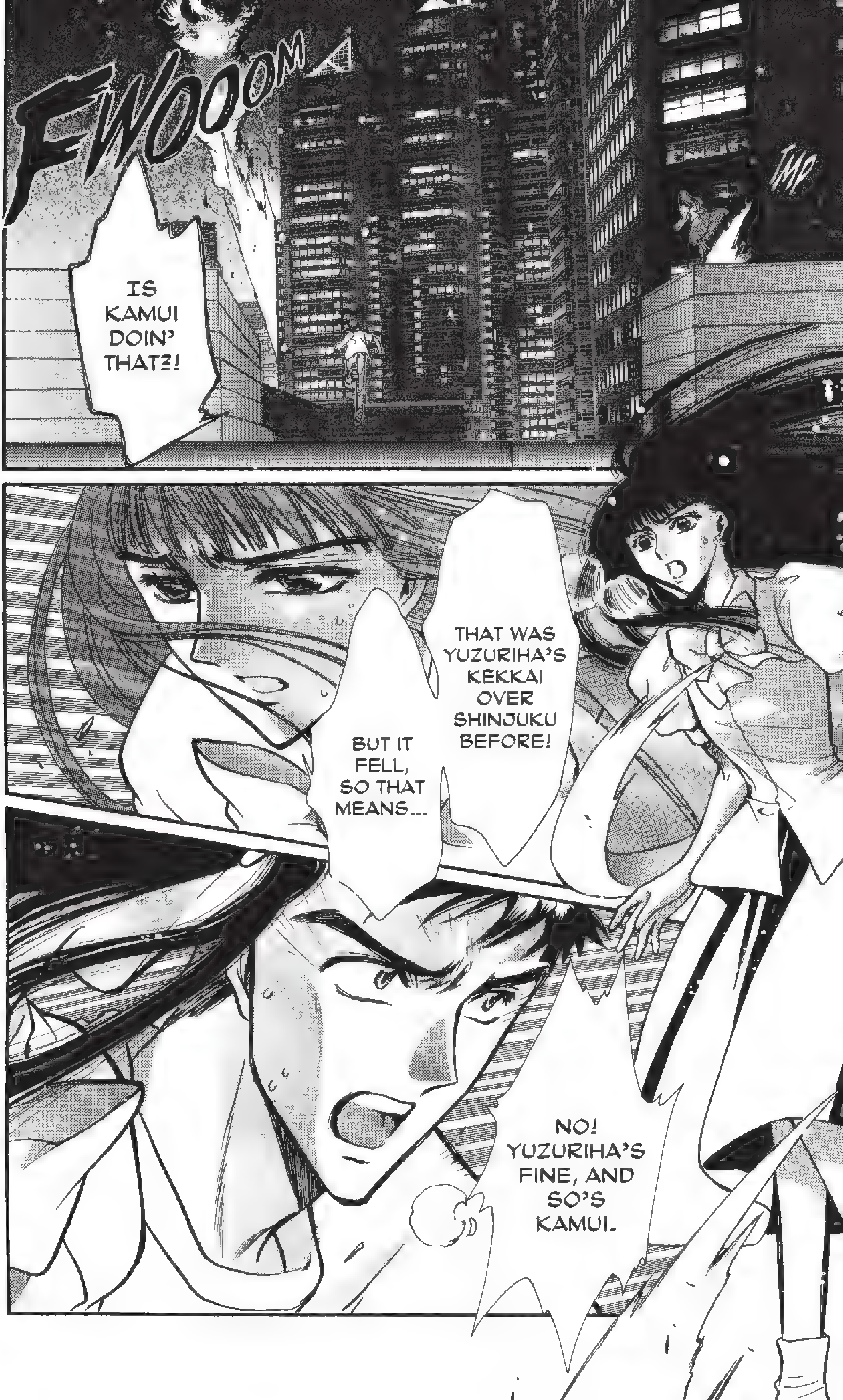

Plip
SHWUP
YOU'RE LATE.

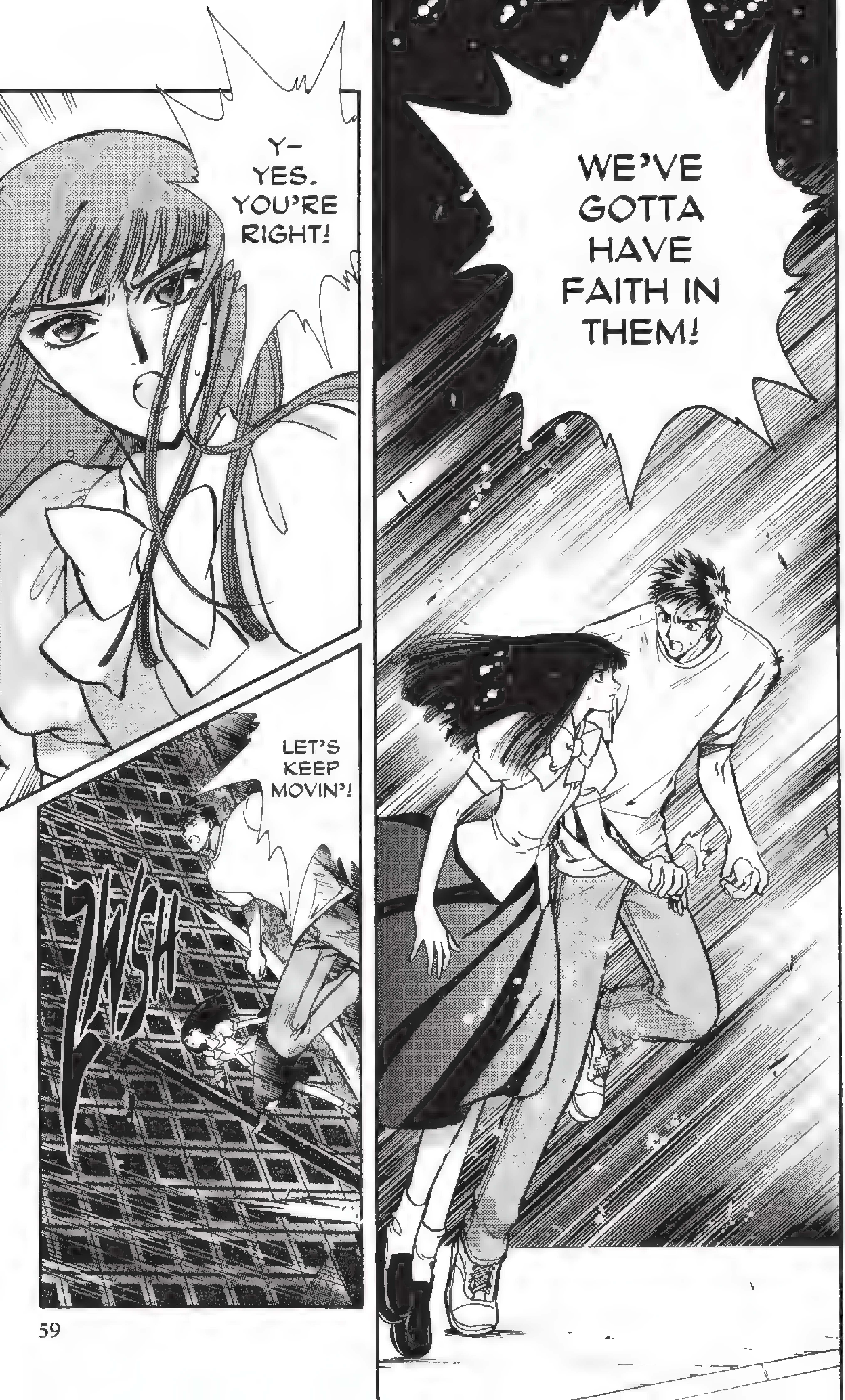

WE FINISHED WITHOUT YOU.

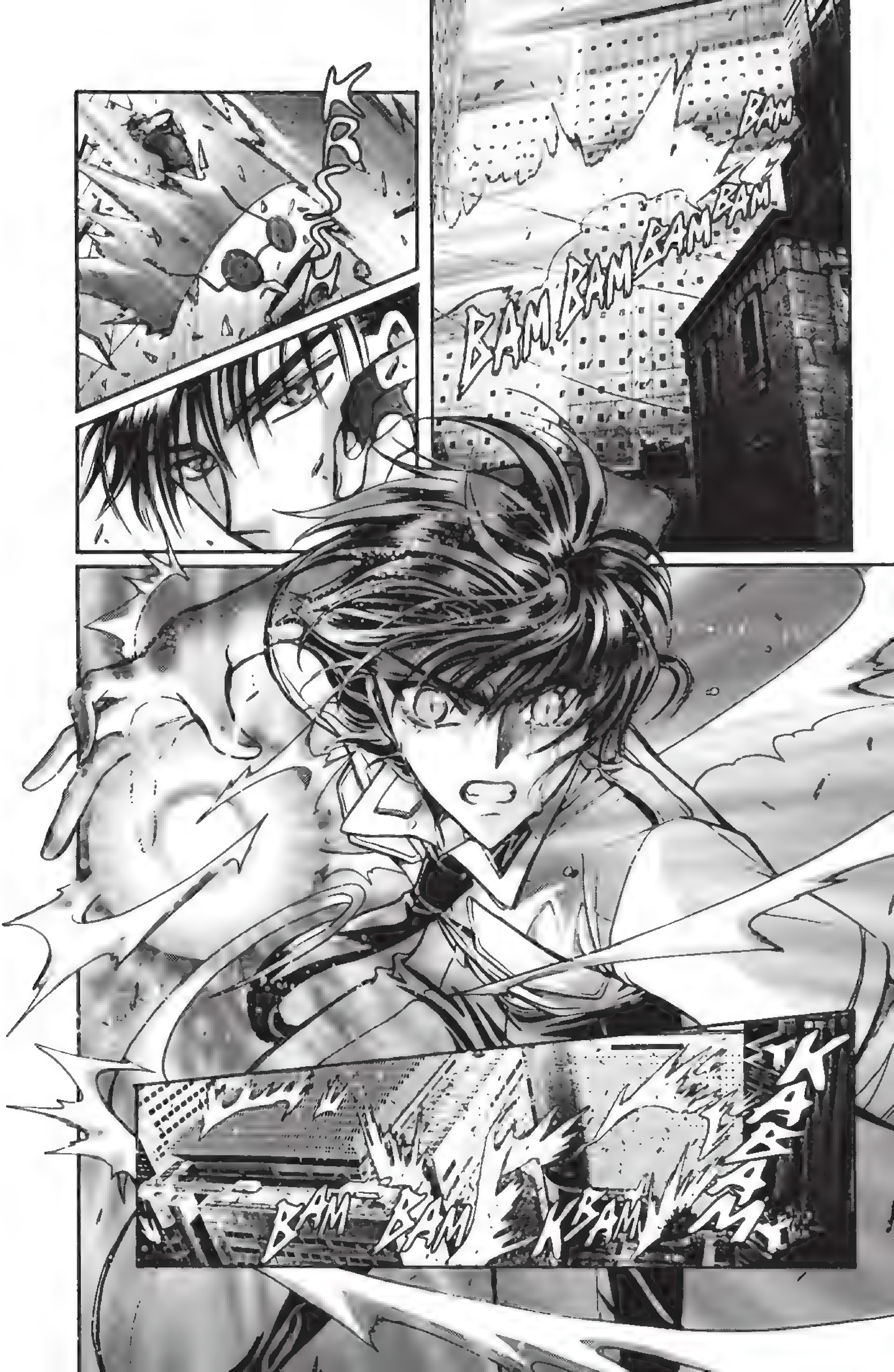

SA...
SAI...
...KI
...

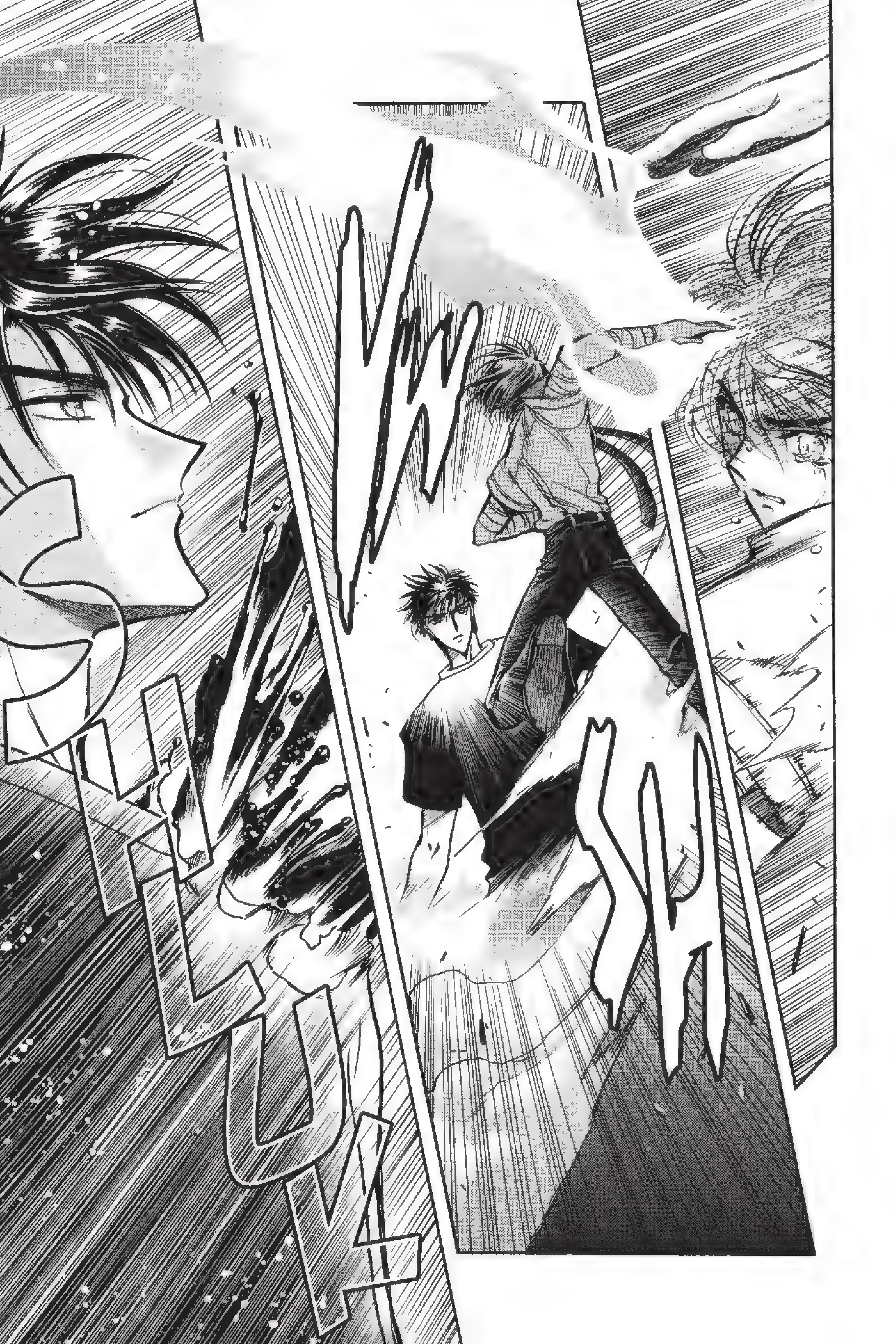

AAAAAA

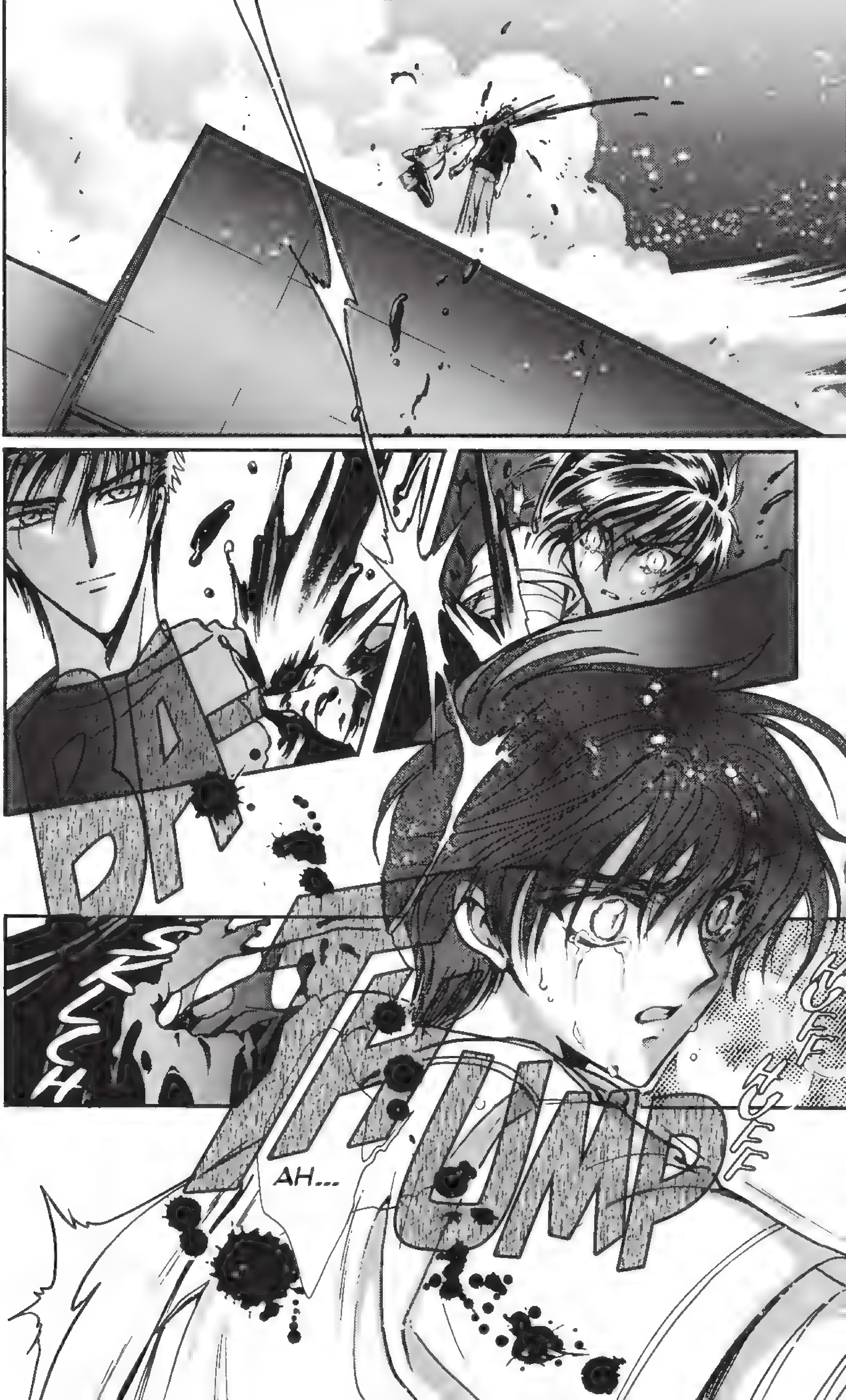

FWOOOM
FLASH
BOOM

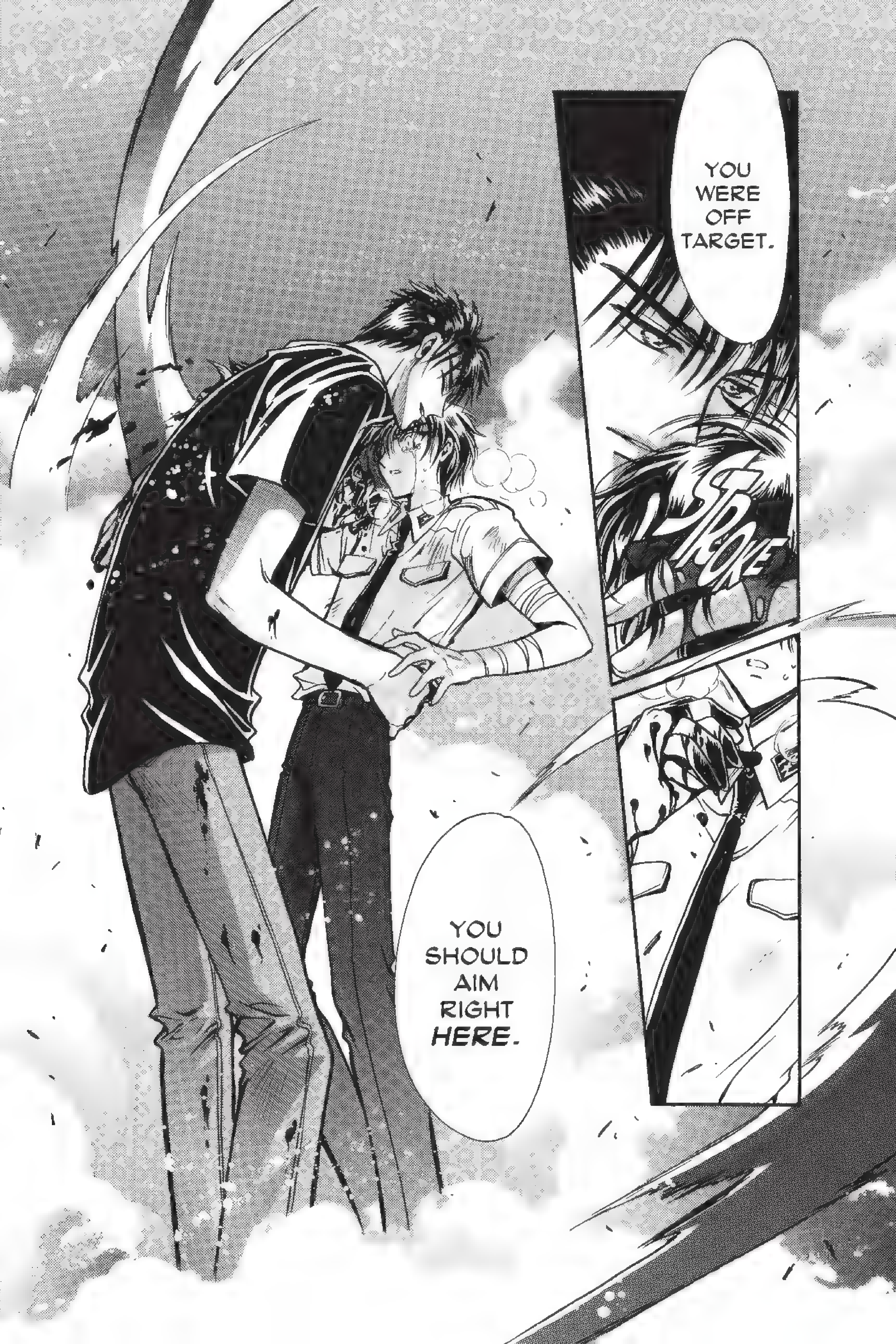

TMP
FWOOOM
IS KAMUI DOIN' THAT?!
THAT WAS YUZURIHA'S KEKKAI OVER SHINJUKU BEFORE!
BUT IT FELL, SO THAT MEANS...
NO! YUZURIHA'S FINE, AND SO'S KAMUI.

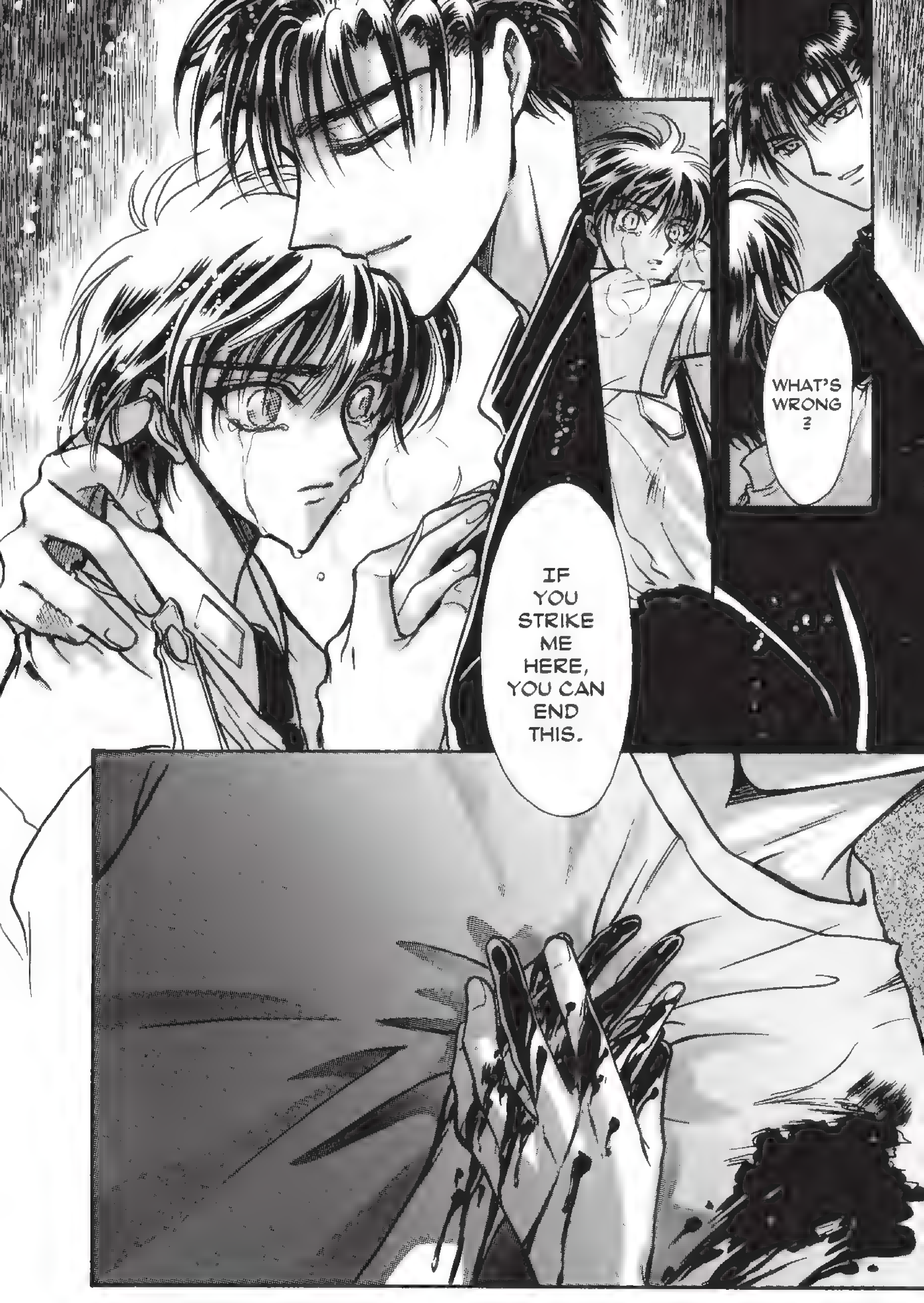

WE'VE GOTTA HAVE FAITH IN THEM!
Y- YES. YOU'RE RIGHT!
LET'S KEEP MOVIN'!
ZWSH

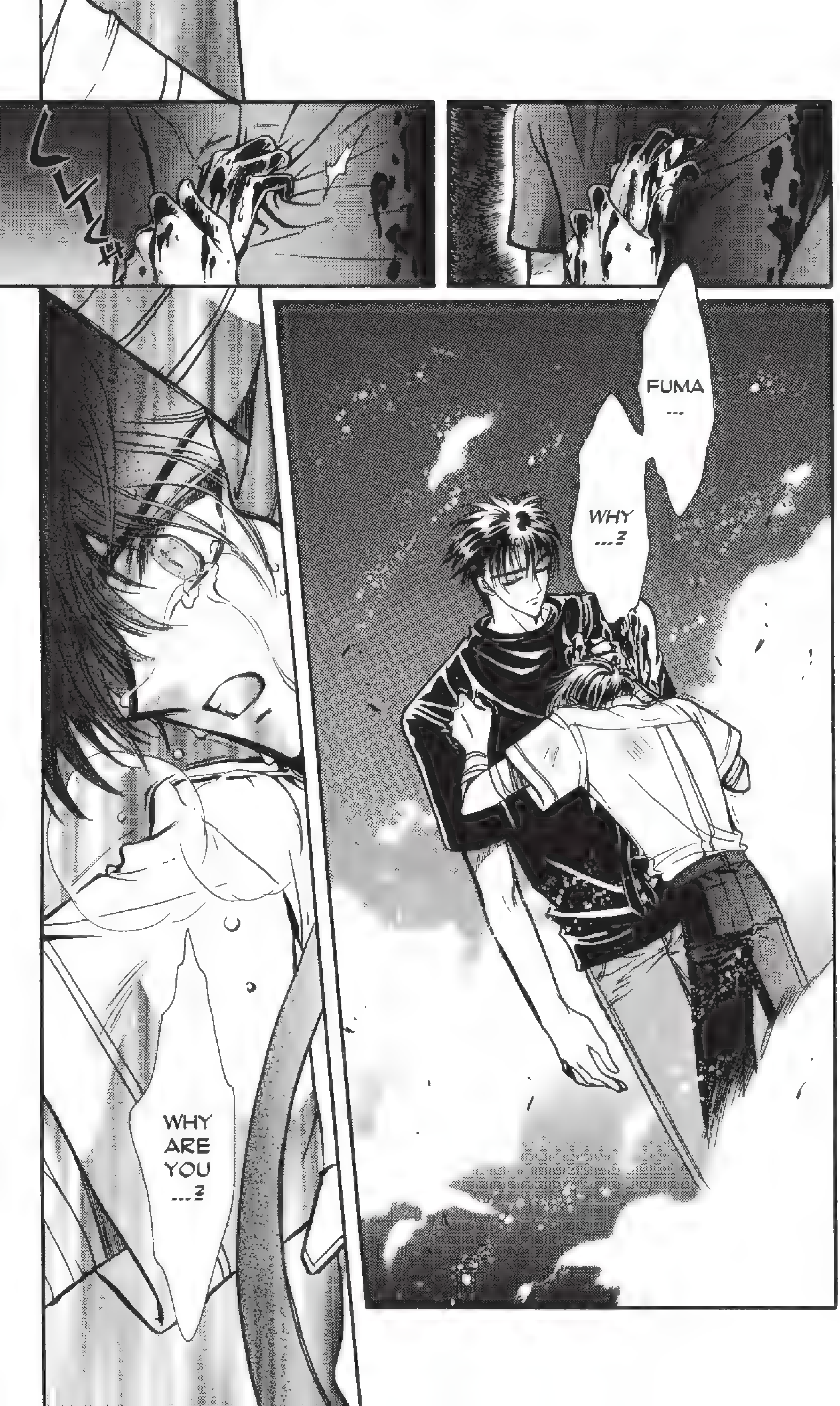

BAM
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
KRSSH
BAM BAM KBAM
KABAM!

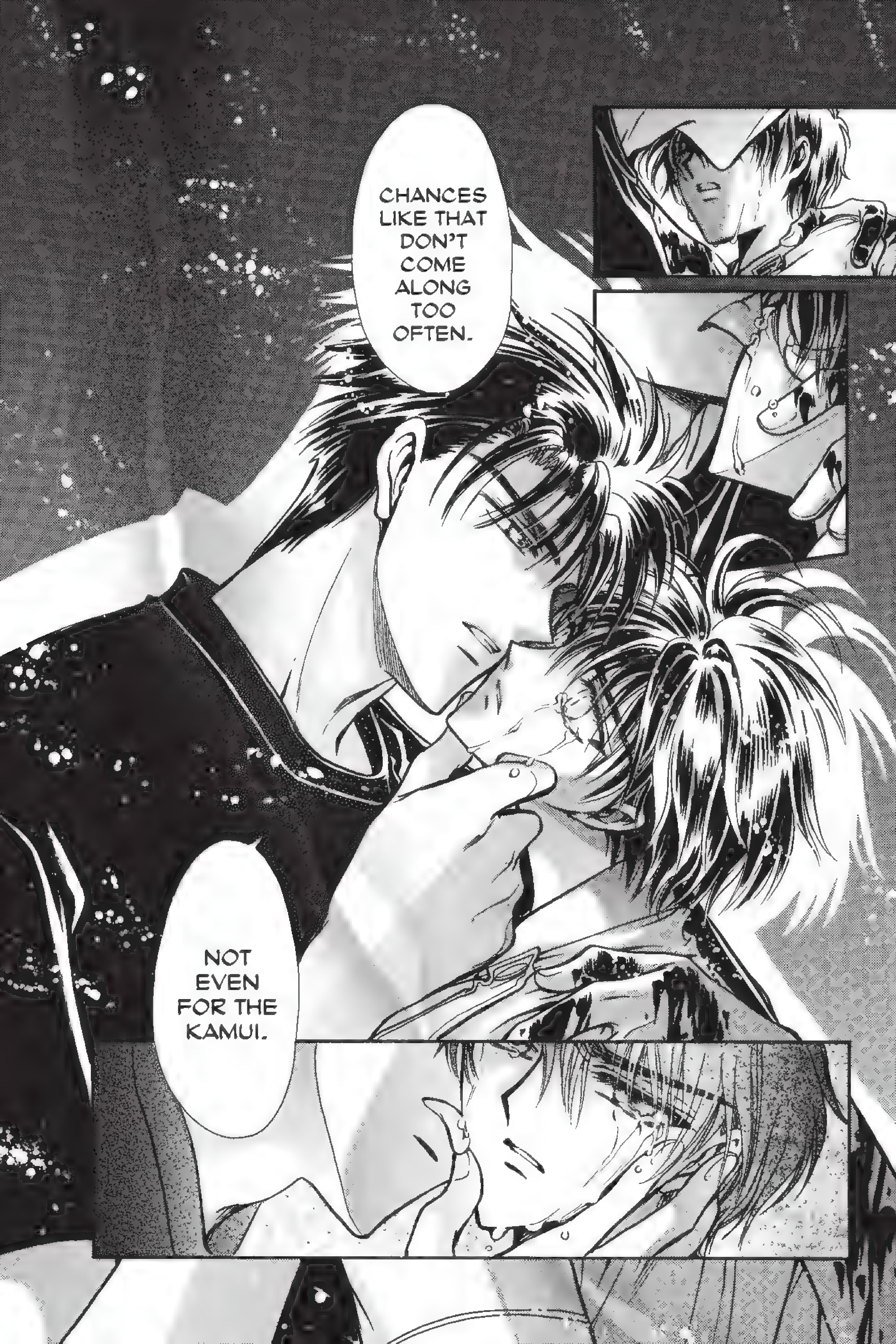

WSH
CHLUK!

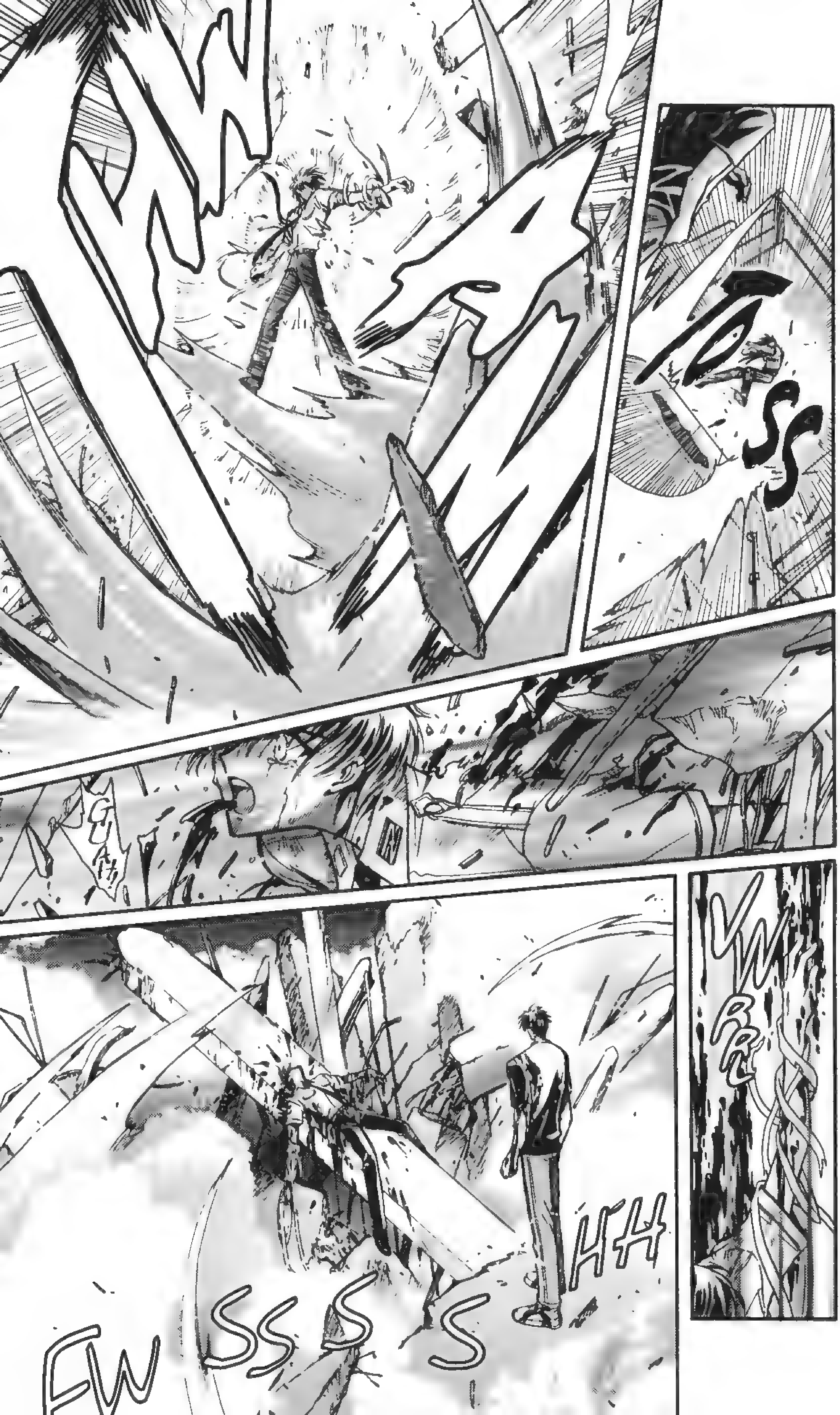

HUFF HUFF
SKLUCH
THUMP
AH...

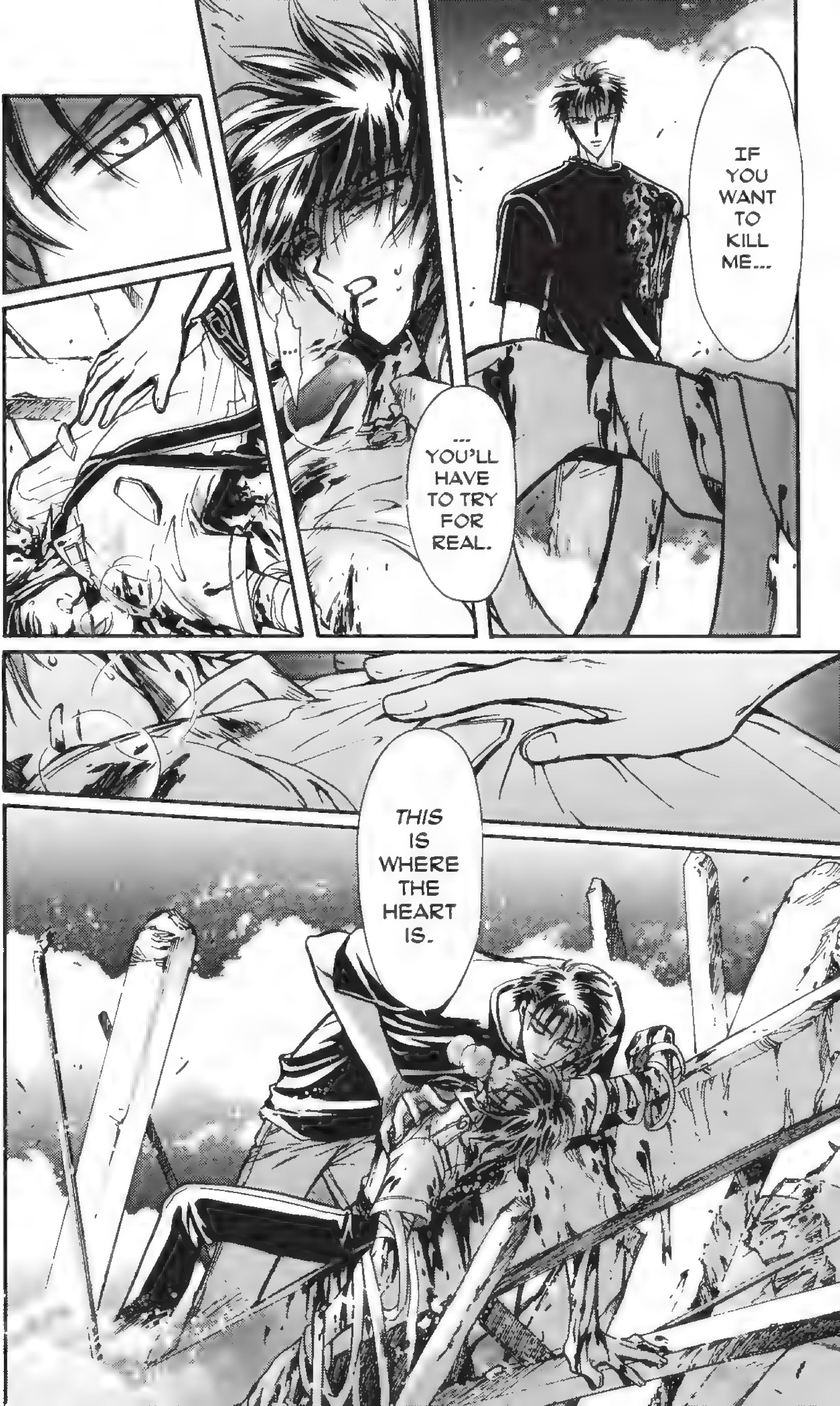

YOU WERE OFF TARGET.
STROKE
YOU SHOULD AIM RIGHT *HERE*.

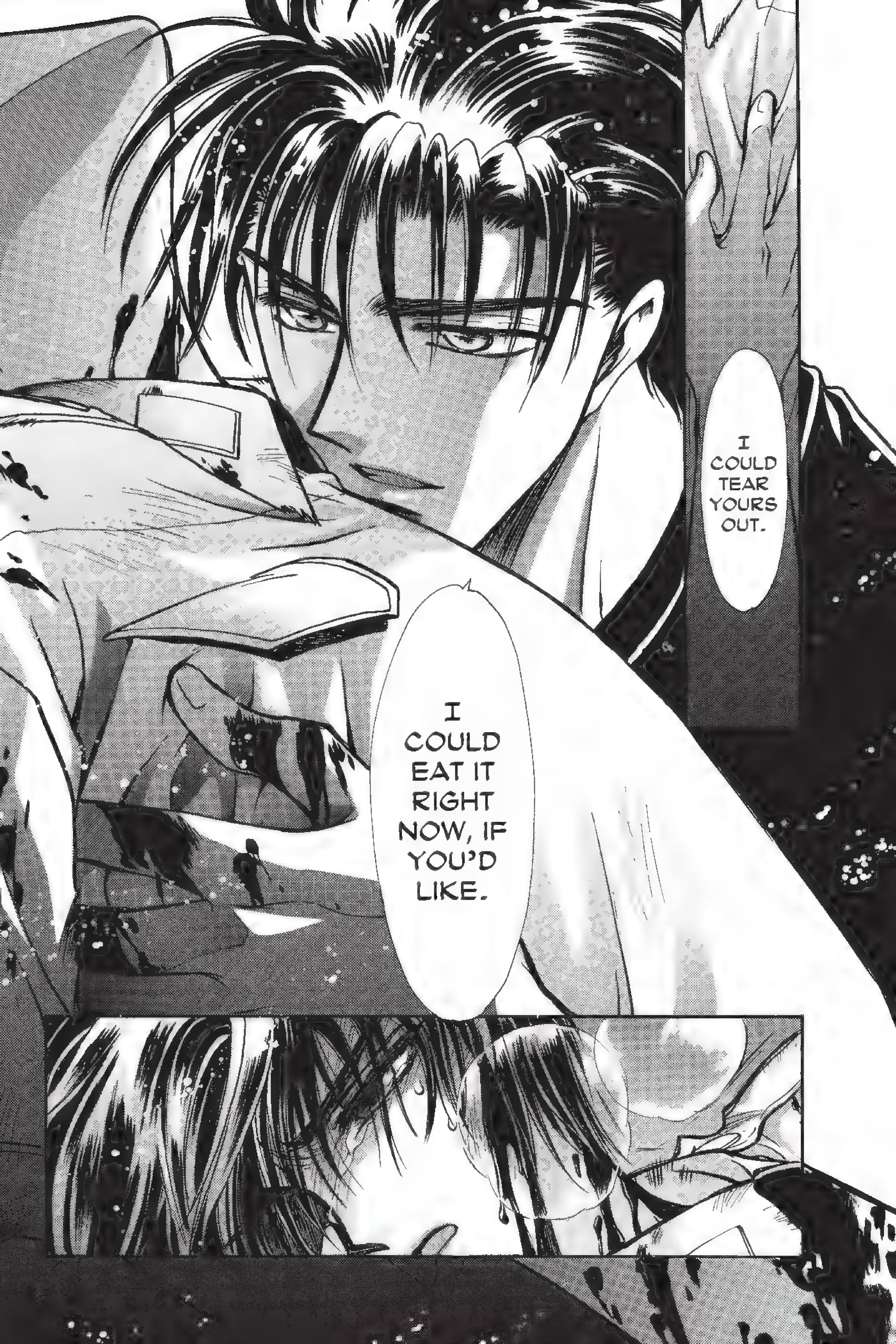

WHAT'S WRONG ?
IF YOU STRIKE ME HERE, YOU CAN END THIS.

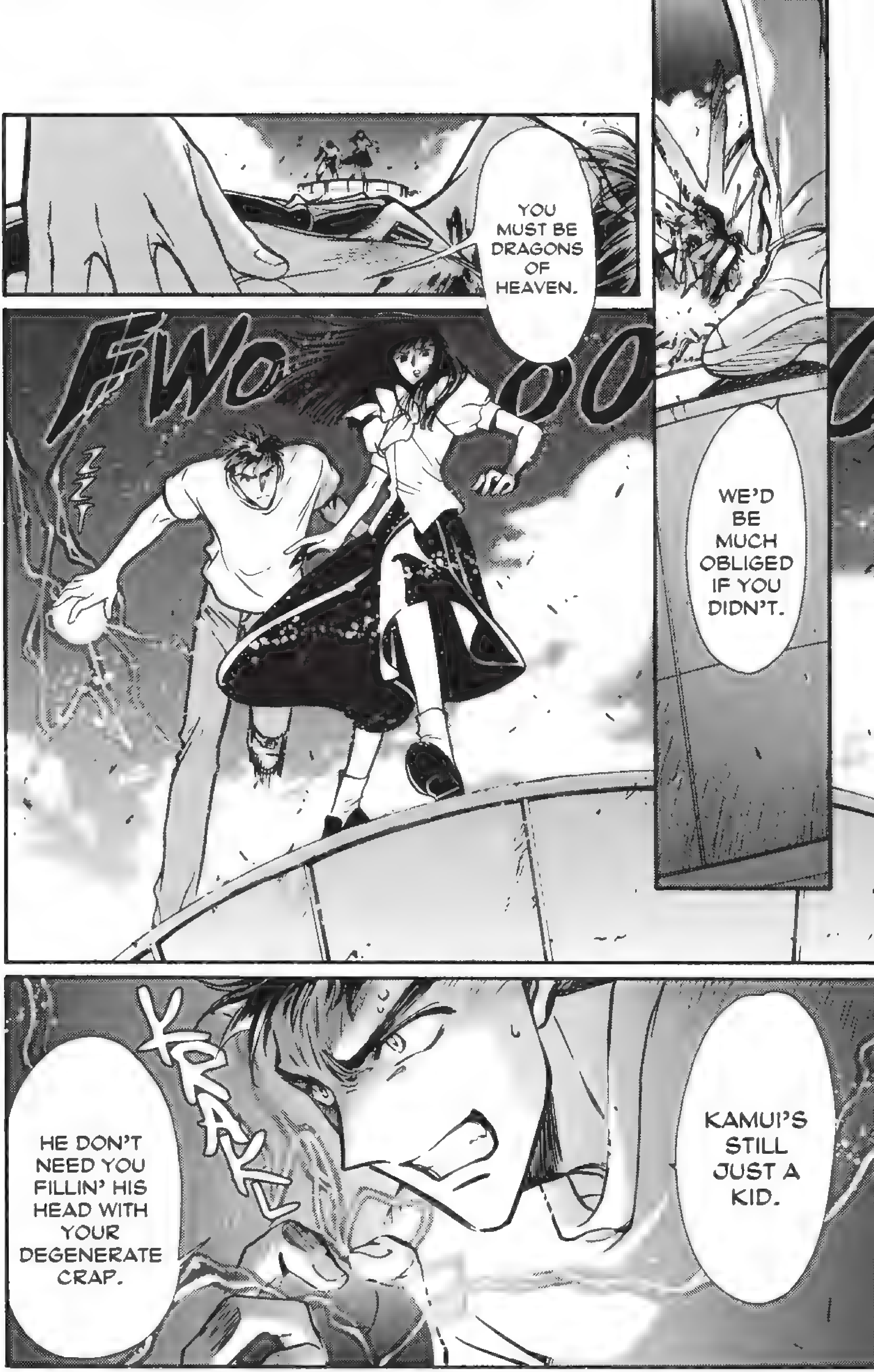

FUMA...
WHY...?
WHY ARE YOU...?

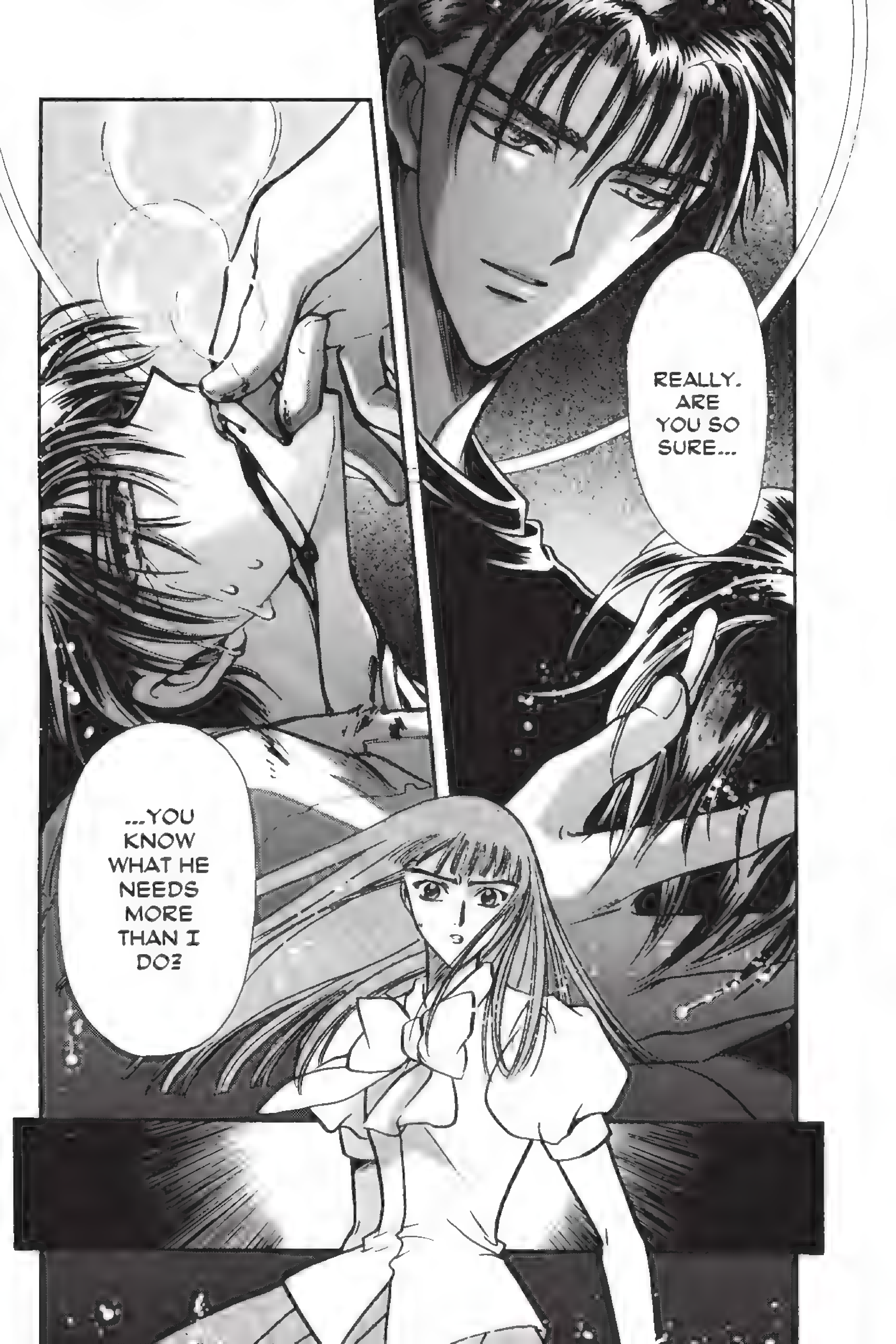

CHANCES LIKE THAT DON'T COME ALONG TOO OFTEN.
NOT EVEN FOR THE KAMUI.

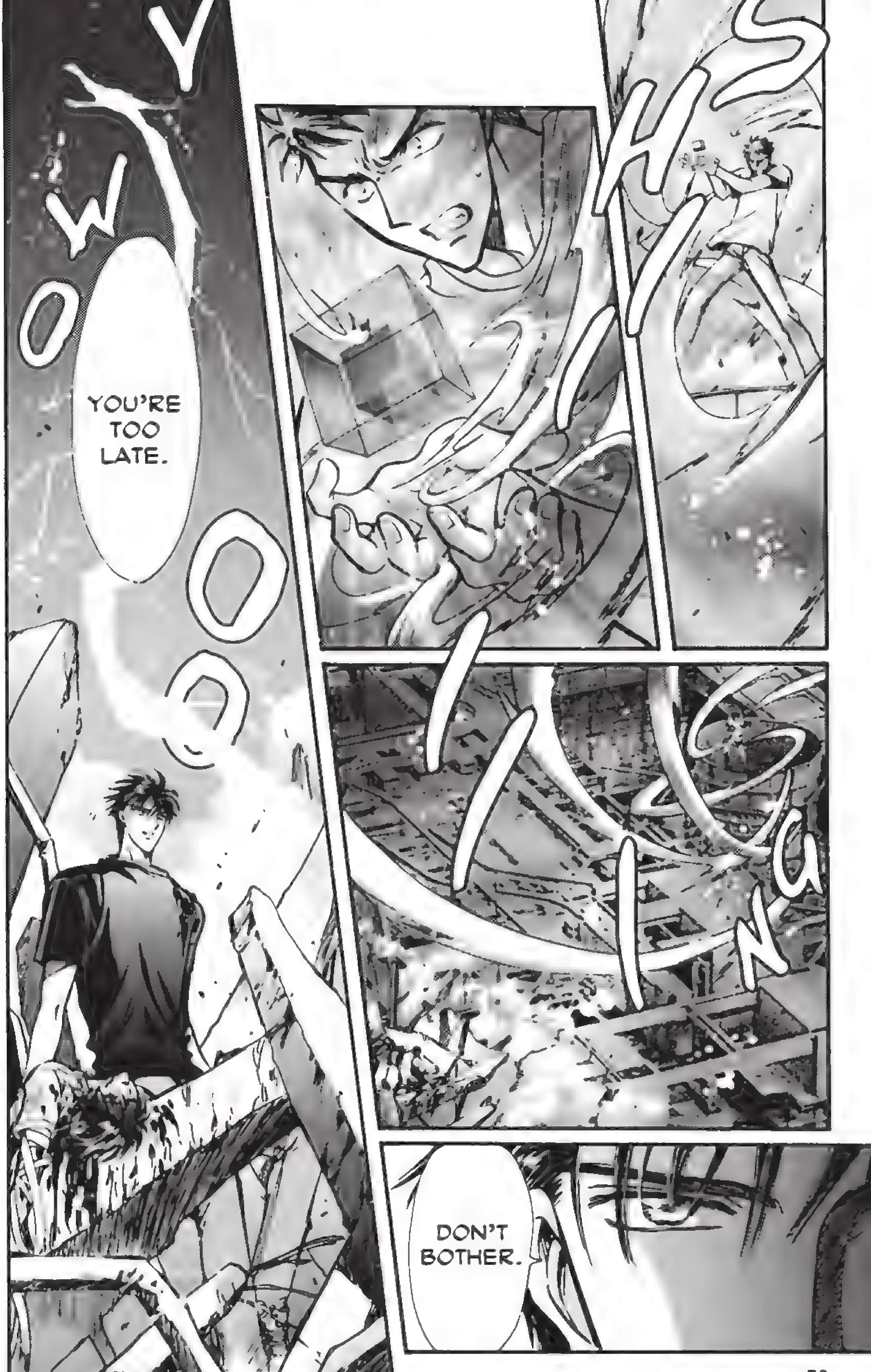

ZWAM
TOSS
GUAH!!
VWRRR
FWSSSSHH

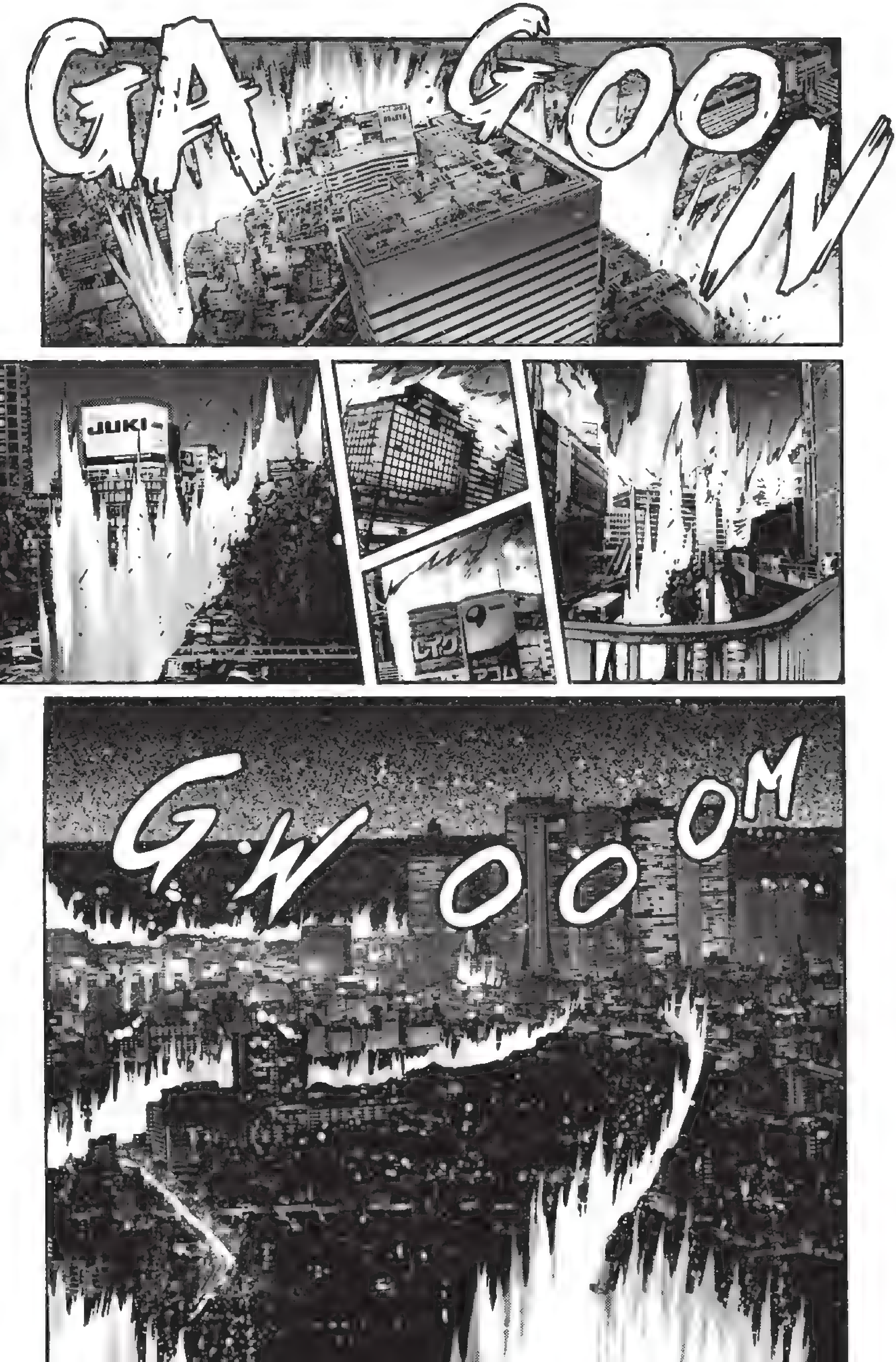

IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY FOR REAL.
...
THIS IS WHERE THE HEART IS.

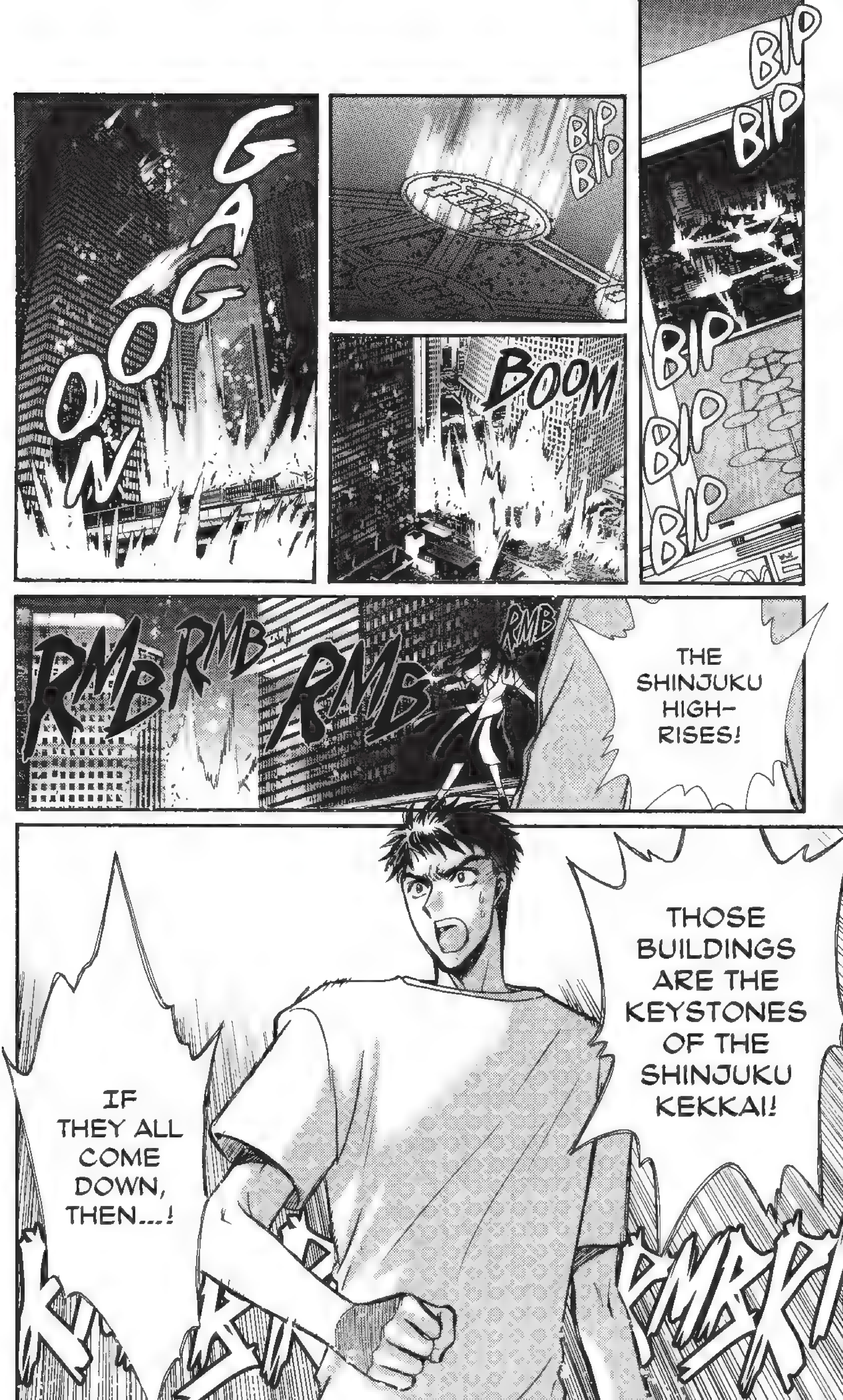

I COULD TEAR YOURS OUT.
I COULD EAT IT RIGHT NOW, IF YOU'D LIKE.

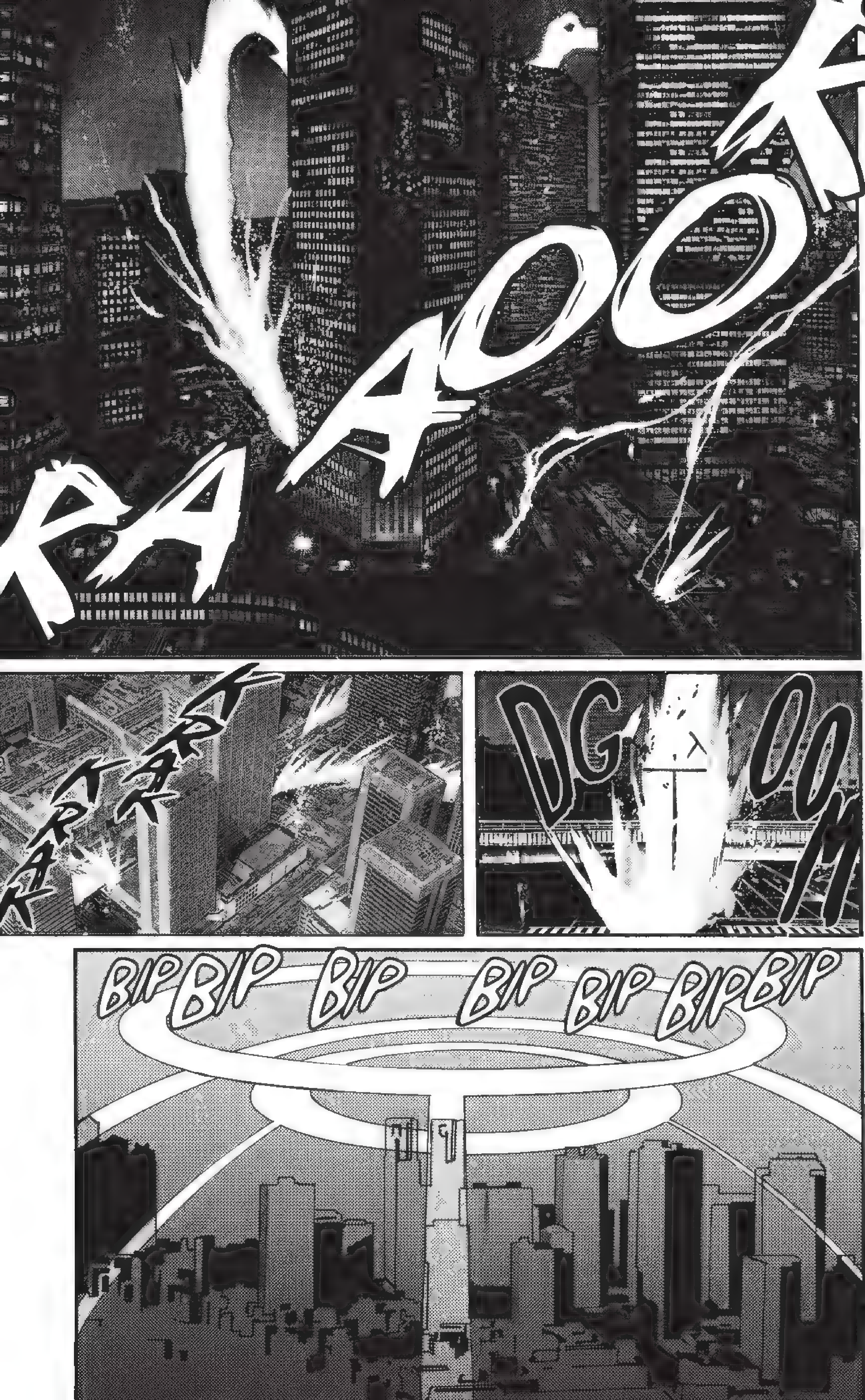

YOU MUST BE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.
FWOOOOO
ZZZT
WE'D BE MUCH OBLIGED IF YOU DIDN'T.
KAMUI'S STILL JUST A KID.
KRAKL
HE DON'T NEED YOU FILLIN' HIS HEAD WITH YOUR DEGENERATE CRAP.


REALLY. ARE YOU SO SURE...
...YOU KNOW WHAT HE NEEDS MORE THAN I DO?

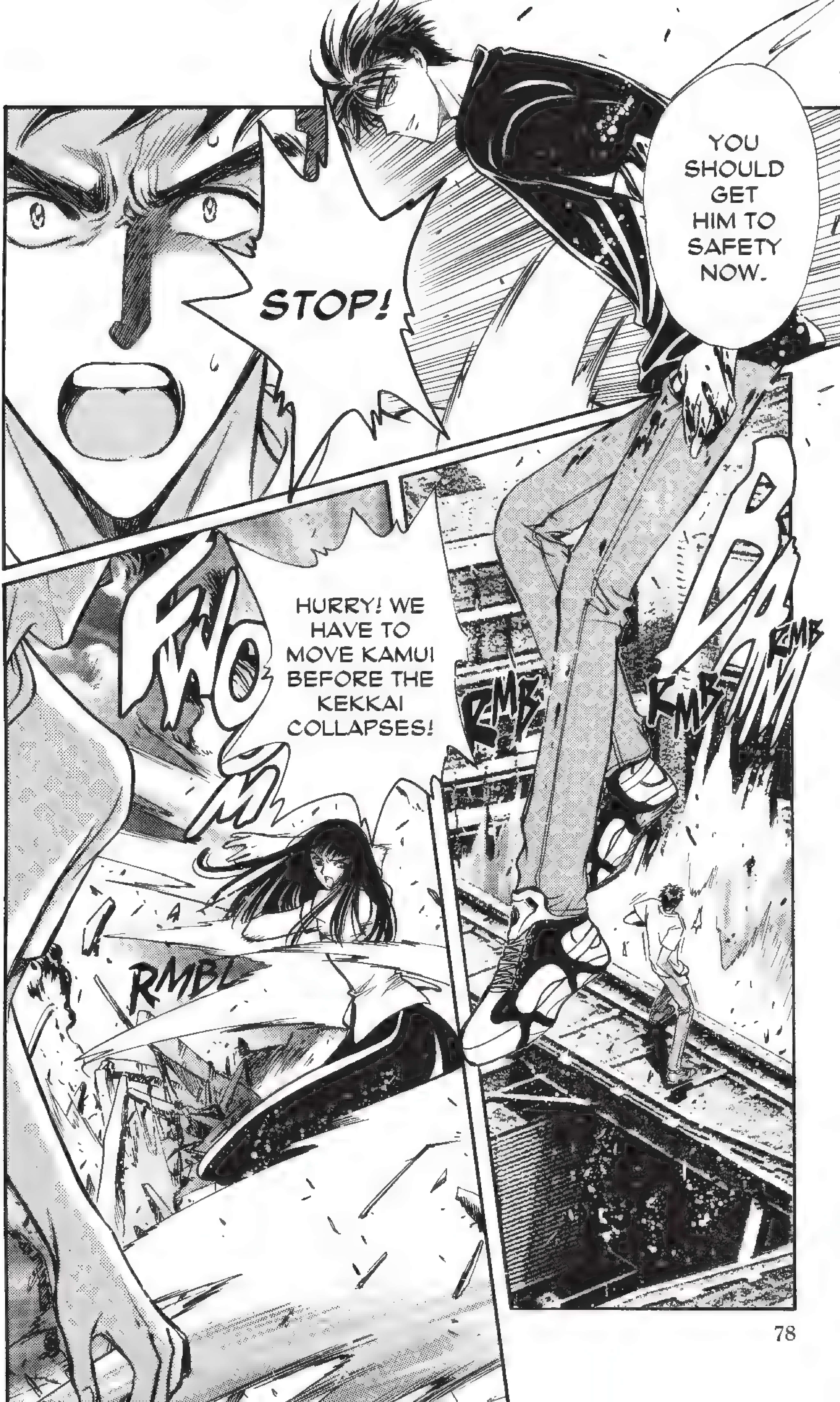

DON'T BOTHER.
YOU'RE TOO LATE.

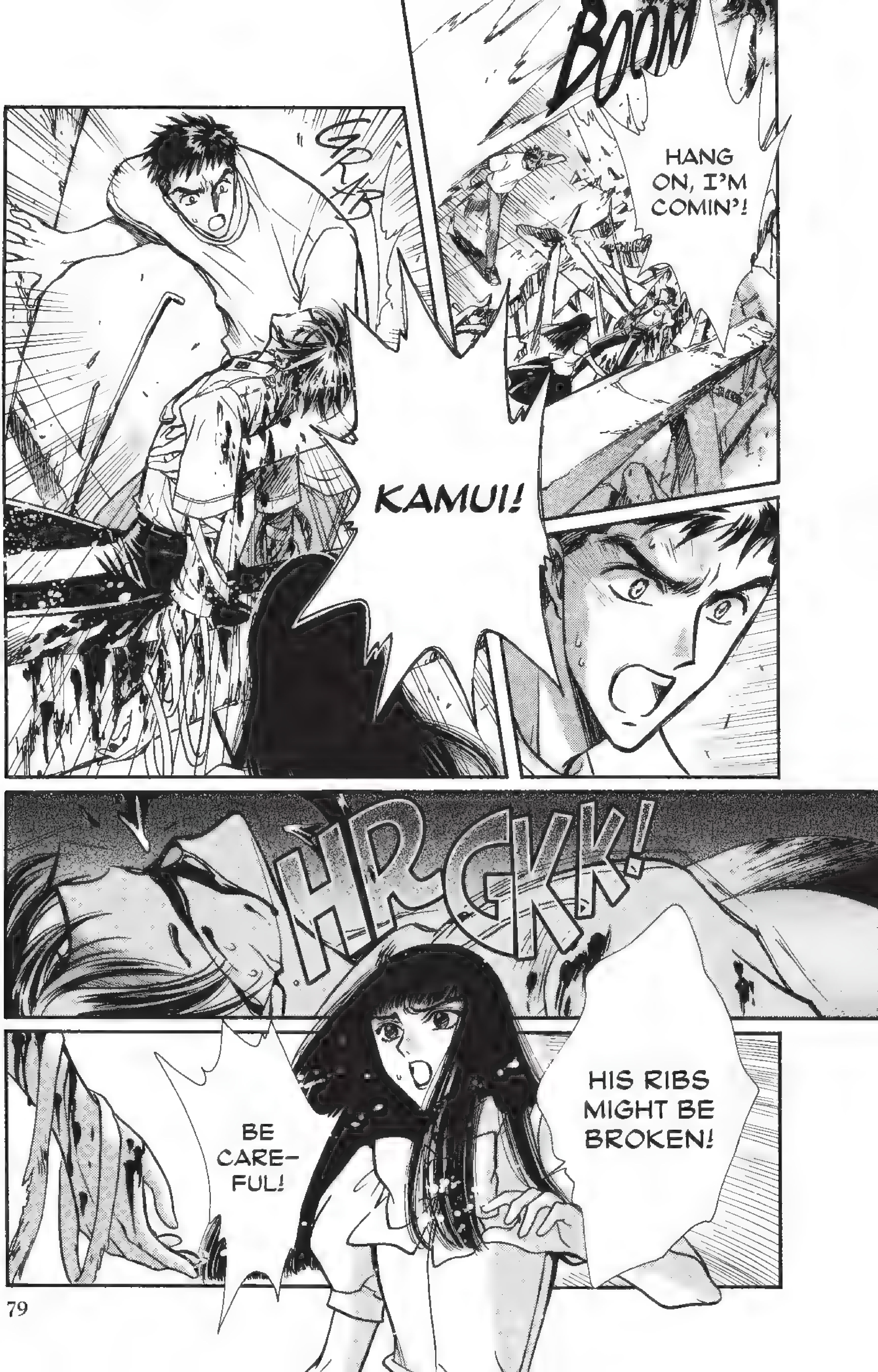

GA GOON
JUKI
レイク
アコム
GWOOOM

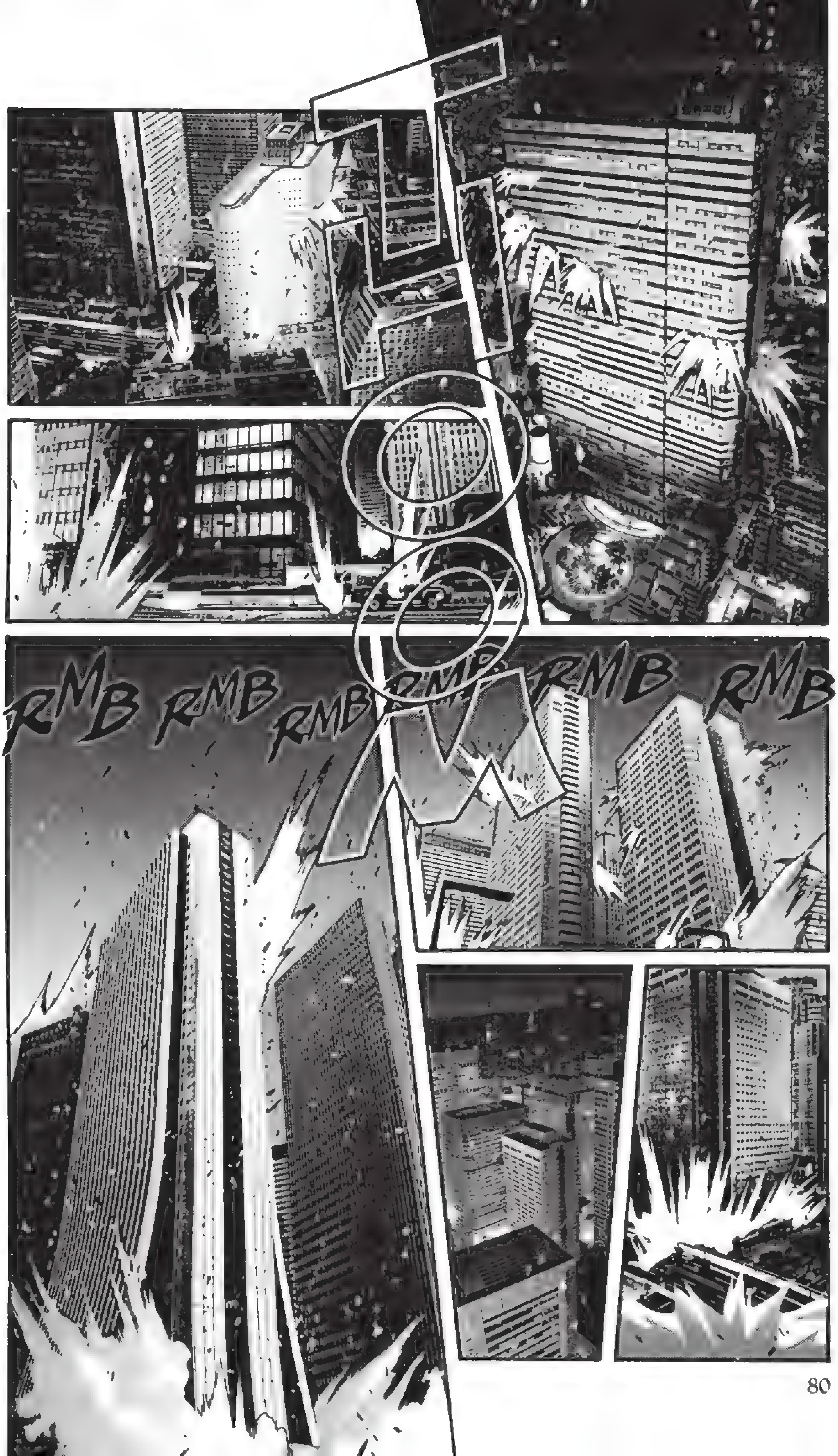

BIP BIP BIP
BIP BIP BIP
BIP BIP
BOOM
GAGOOON
RMB
THE SHINJUKU HIGH-RISES!
RMB
RMB
RMB
THOSE BUILDINGS ARE THE KEYSTONES OF THE SHINJUKU KEKKAI!
IF THEY ALL COME DOWN, THEN...!

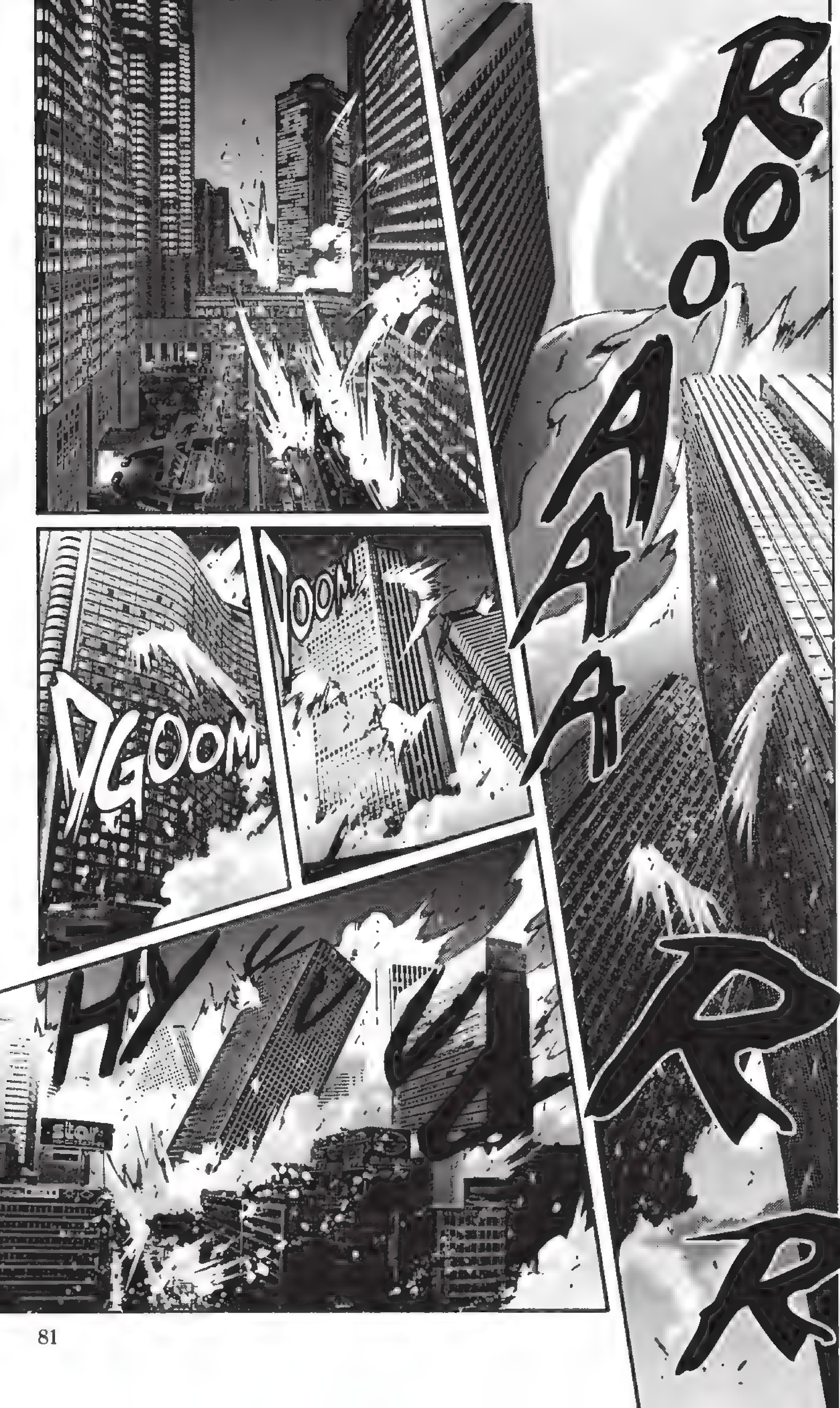

RAVAOOK
KRAK
KRAK
DGOOM
BIPBIP BIP BIP BIP BIPBIP

ROOAAARRR

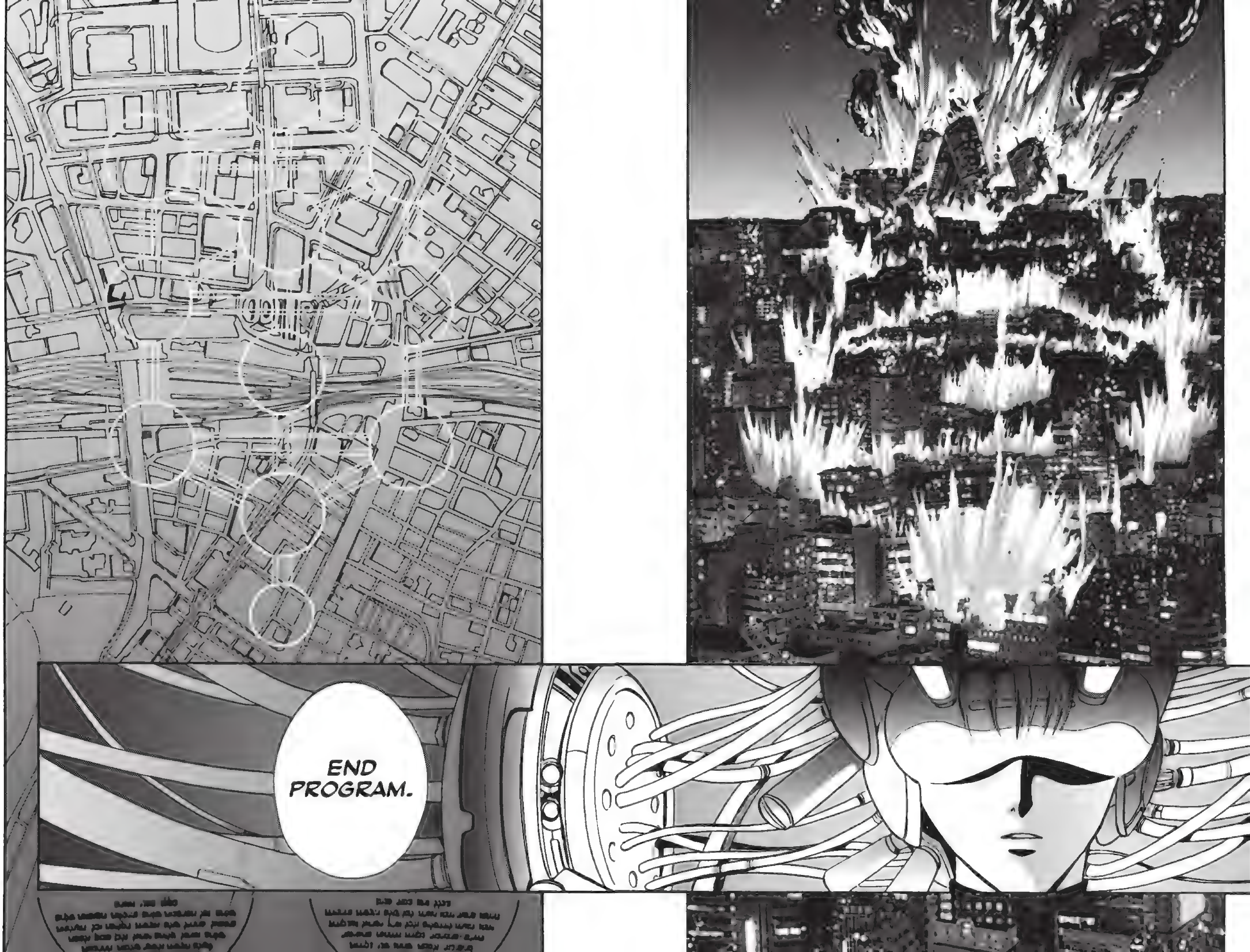

YOU SHOULD GET HIM TO SAFETY NOW.
STOP!
FWOOM
HURRY! WE HAVE TO MOVE KAMUI BEFORE THE KEKKAI COLLAPSES!
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMBL

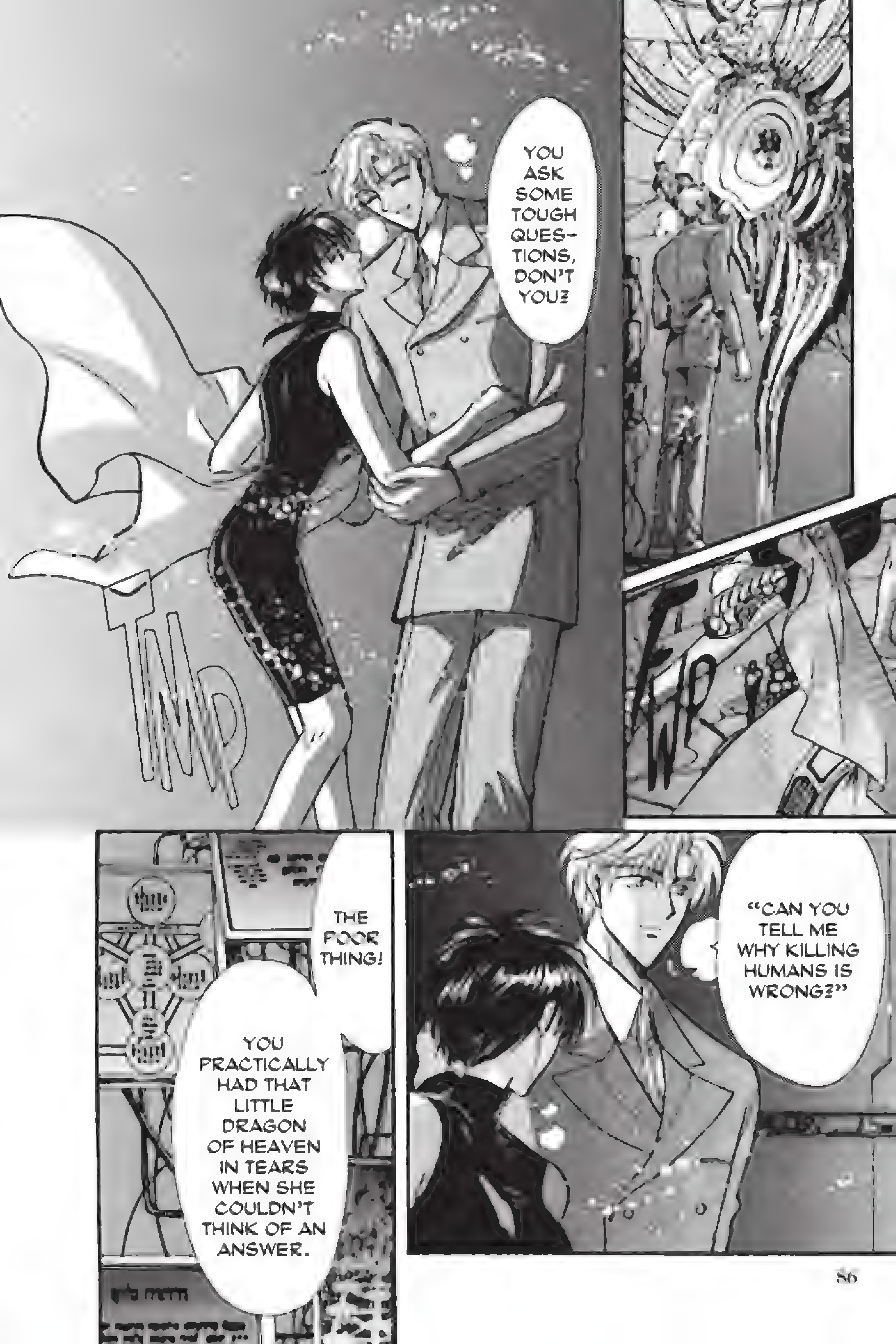

BOOM
HANG ON, I'M COMIN'!
GRAB
KAMUI!
HRGKK!
HIS RIBS MIGHT BE BROKEN!
BE CAREFUL!

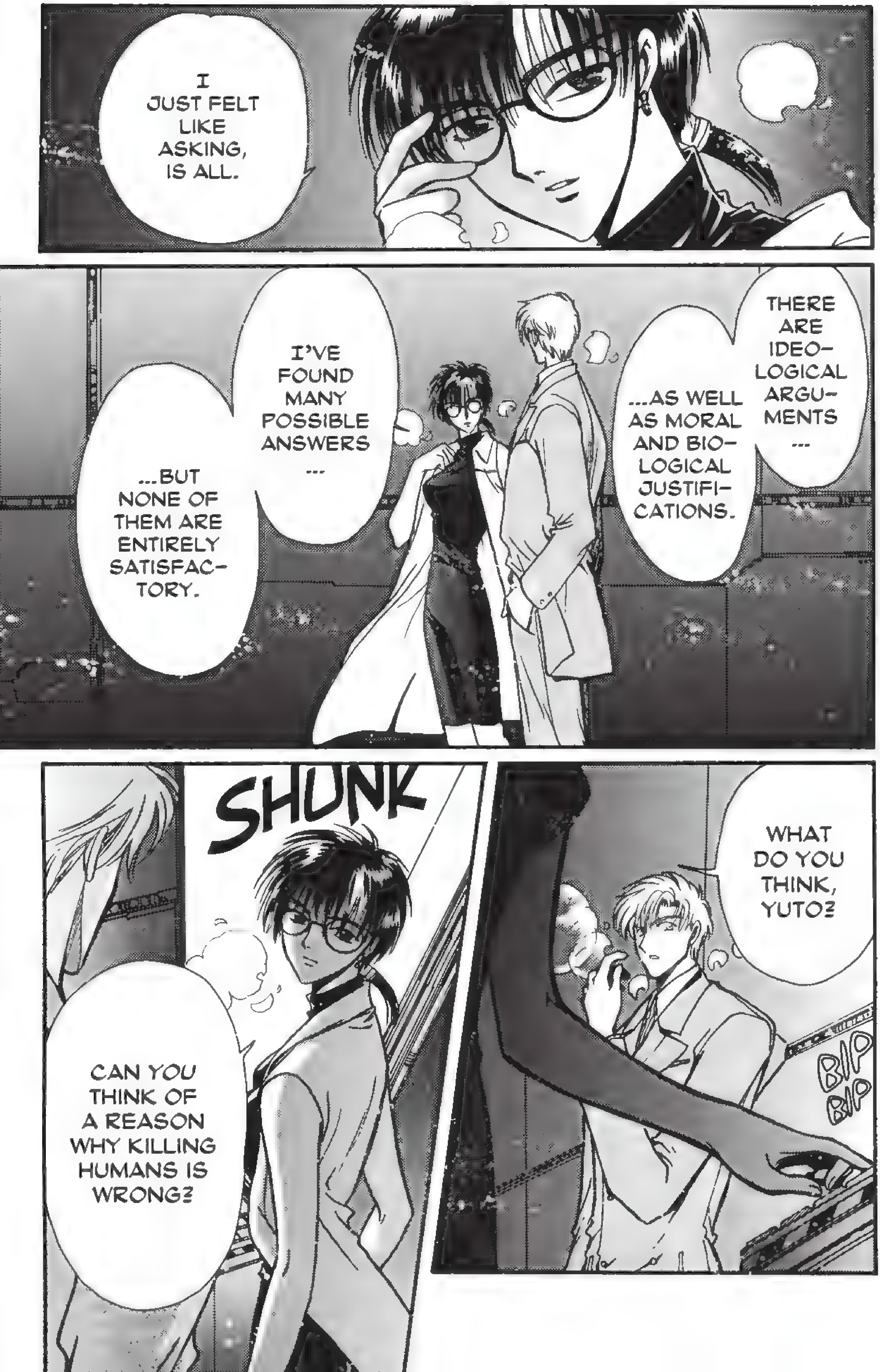

RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB

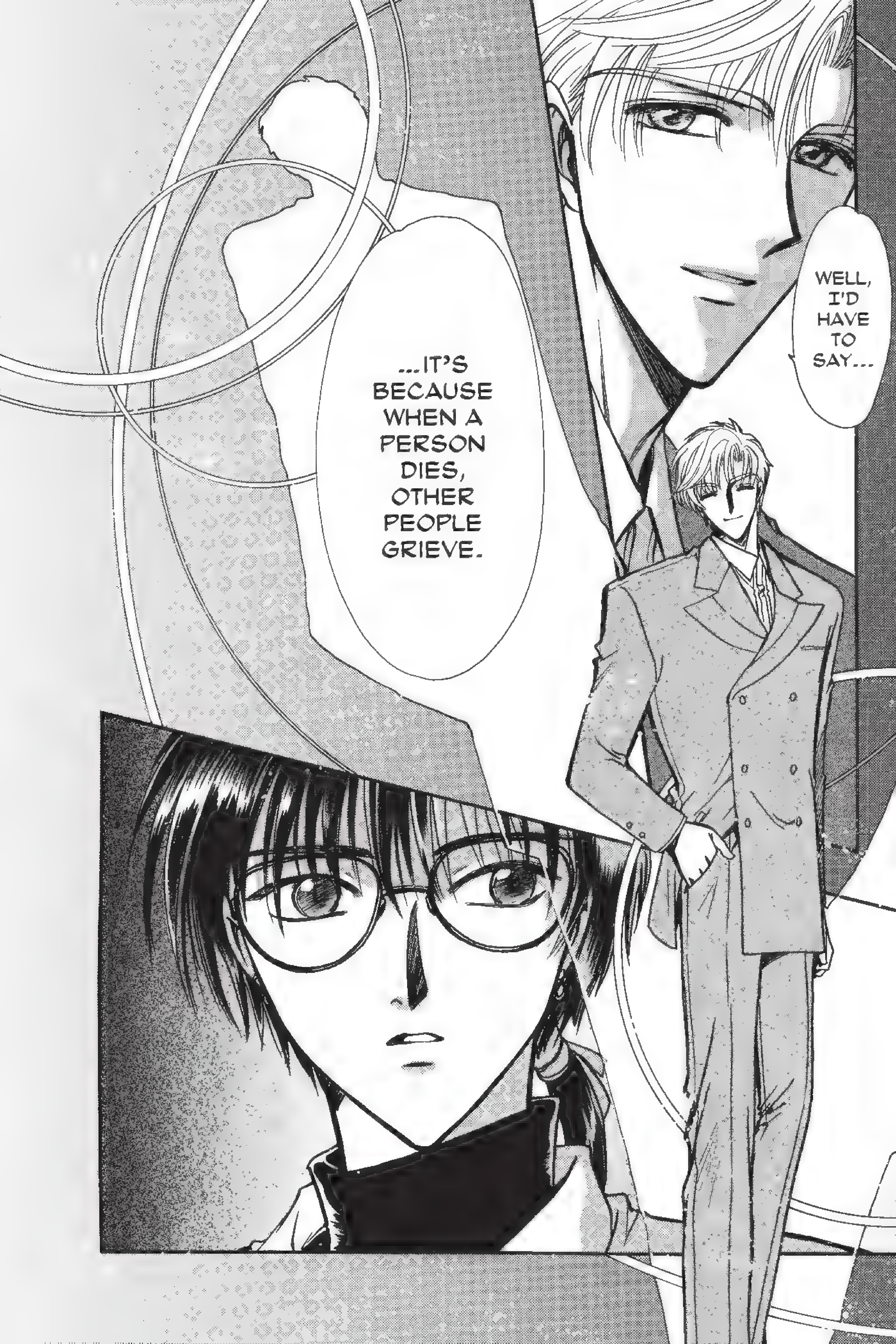

ROOAAAARRR
DOOM
DGOOM
HYUU

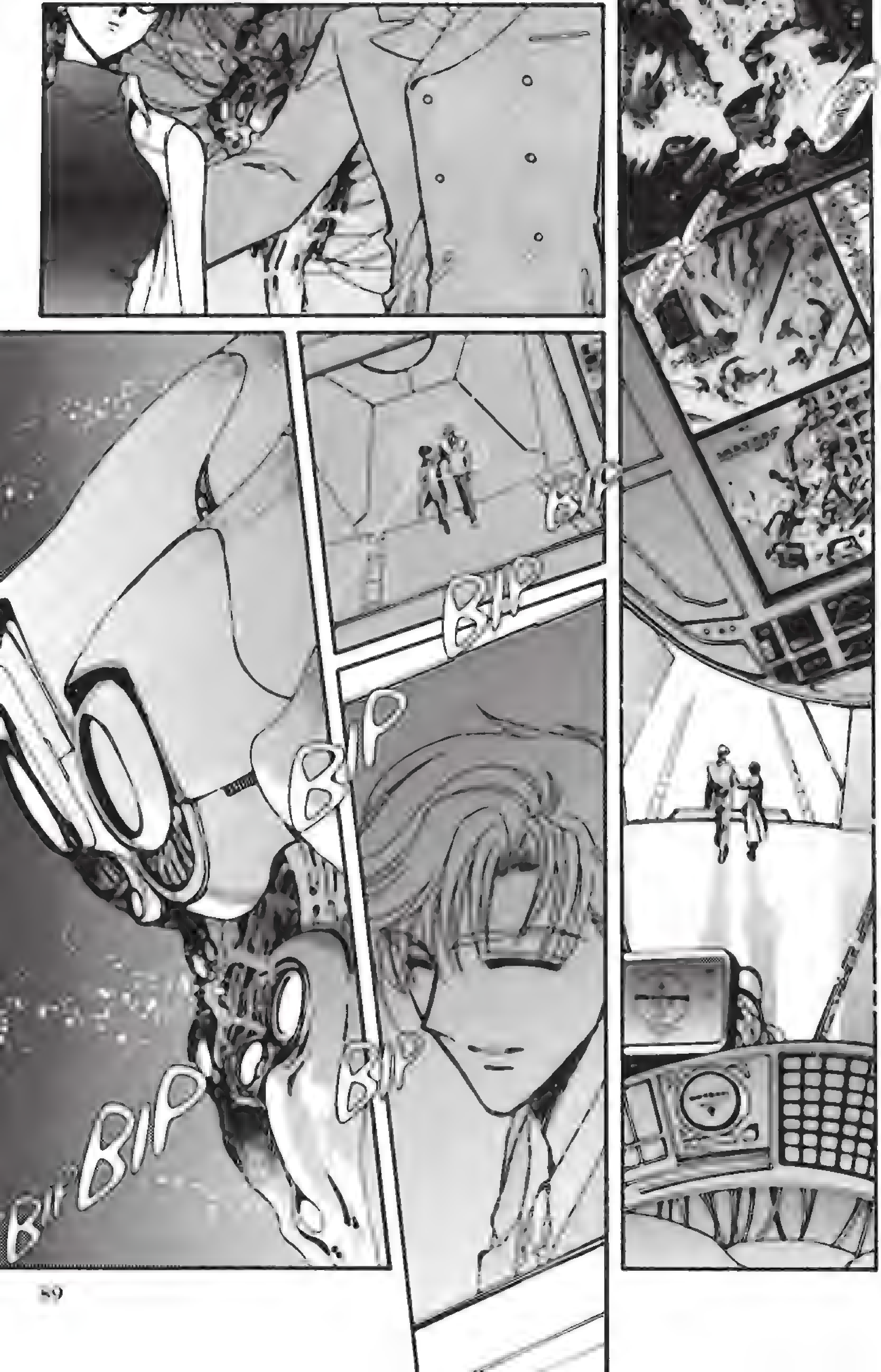
BAKOOM

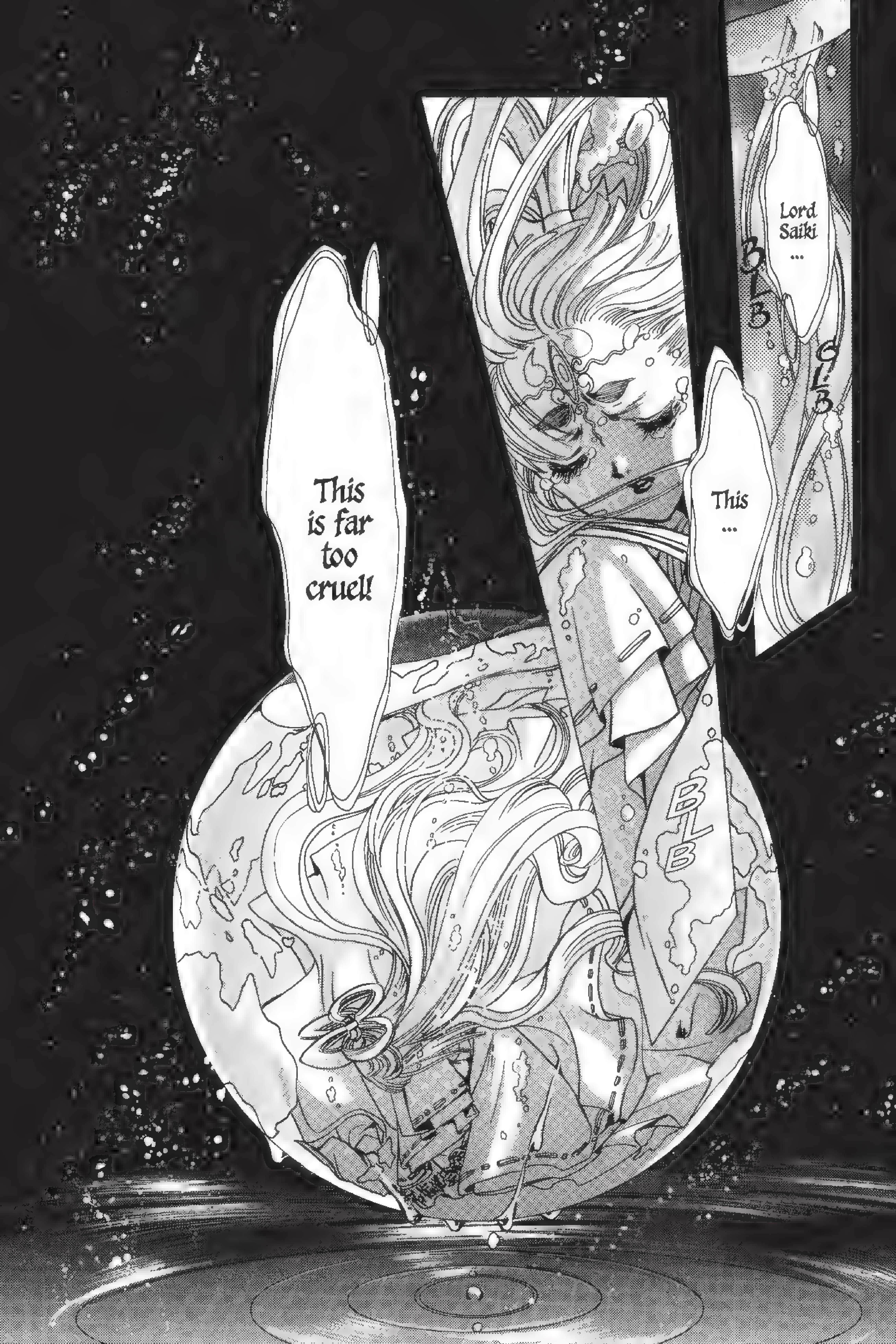

END PROGRAM.

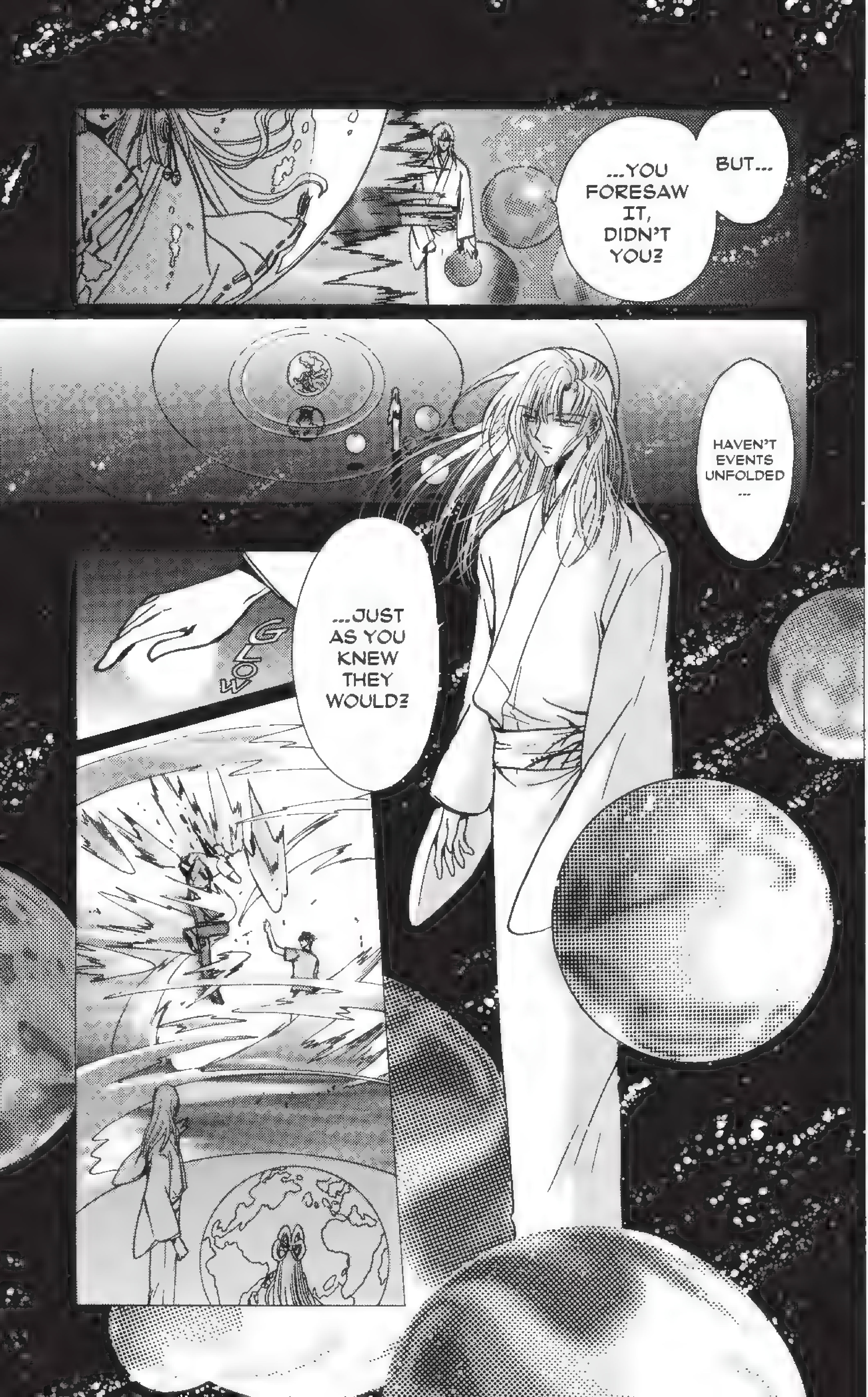

YOU ASK SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS, DON'T YOU?
THE POOR THING!
YOU PRACTICALLY HAD THAT LITTLE DRAGON OF HEAVEN IN TEARS WHEN SHE COULDN'T THINK OF AN ANSWER.
"CAN YOU TELL ME WHY KILLING HUMANS IS WRONG?"

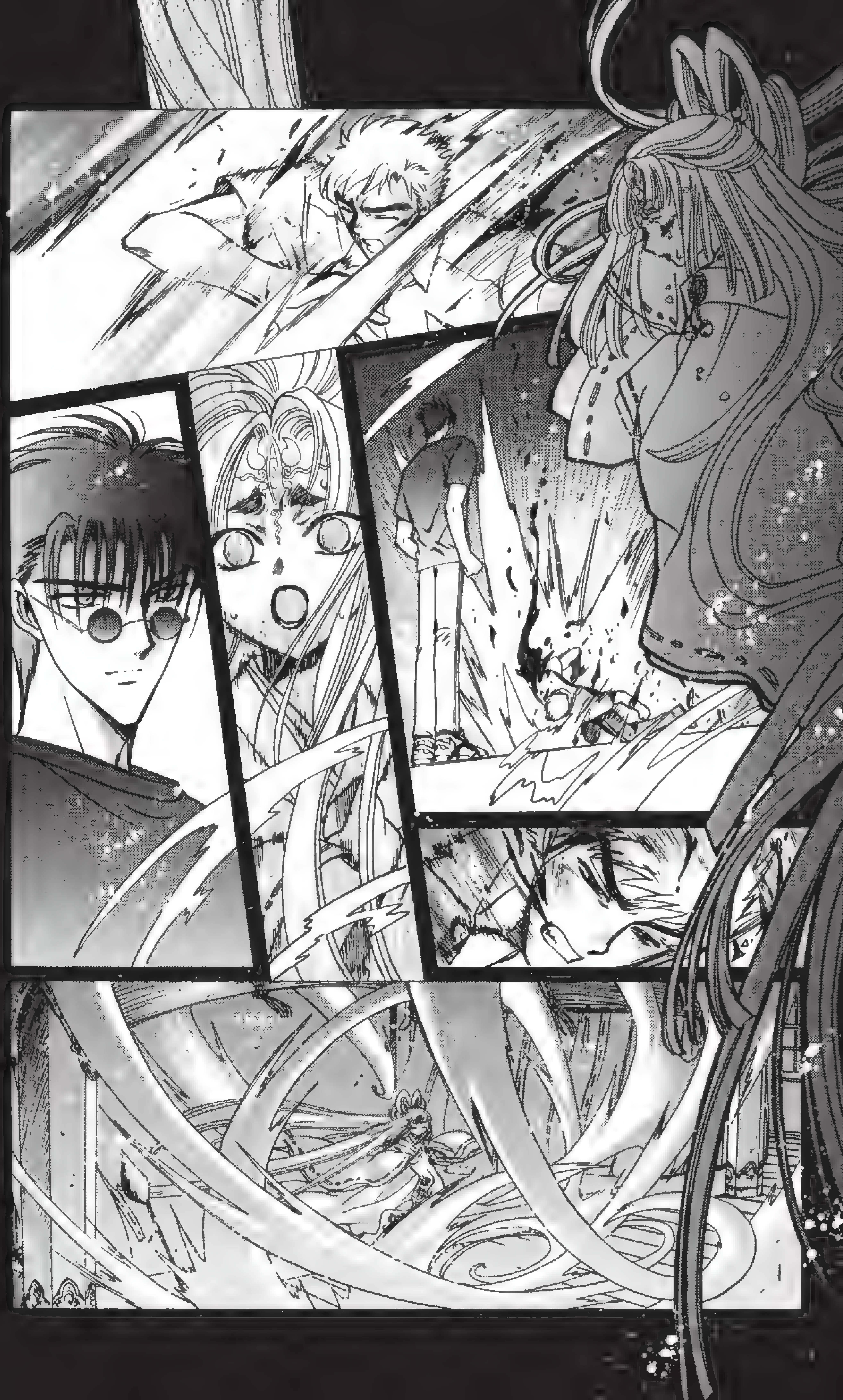

I JUST FELT LIKE ASKING, IS ALL.
THERE ARE IDEOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS...
...AS WELL AS MORAL AND BIOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATIONS.
I'VE FOUND MANY POSSIBLE ANSWERS...
...BUT NONE OF THEM ARE ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YUTO?
BIP BIP
SHUNK
CAN YOU THINK OF A REASON WHY KILLING HUMANS IS WRONG?

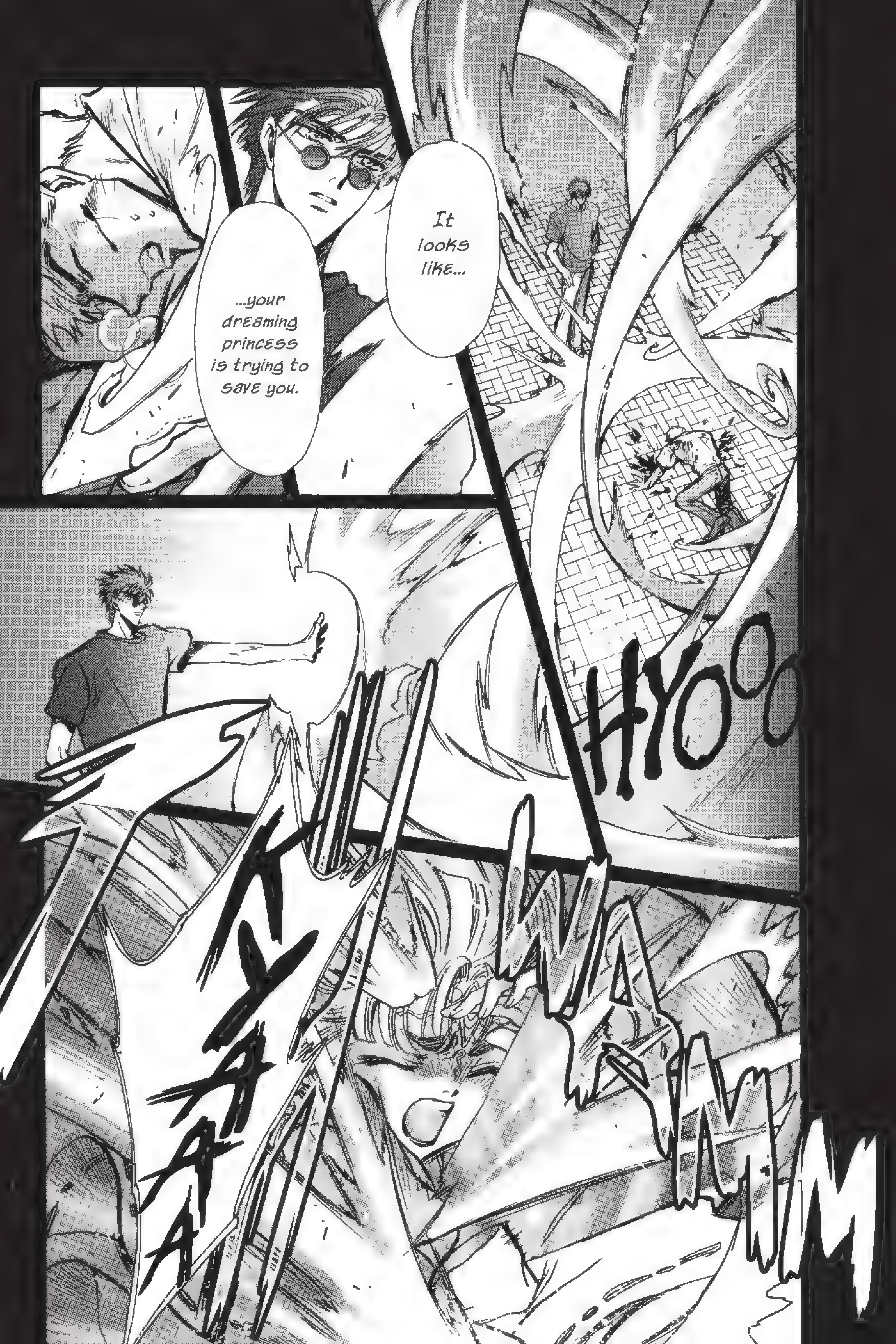

WELL, I'D HAVE TO SAY...
...IT'S BECAUSE WHEN A PERSON DIES, OTHER PEOPLE GRIEVE.

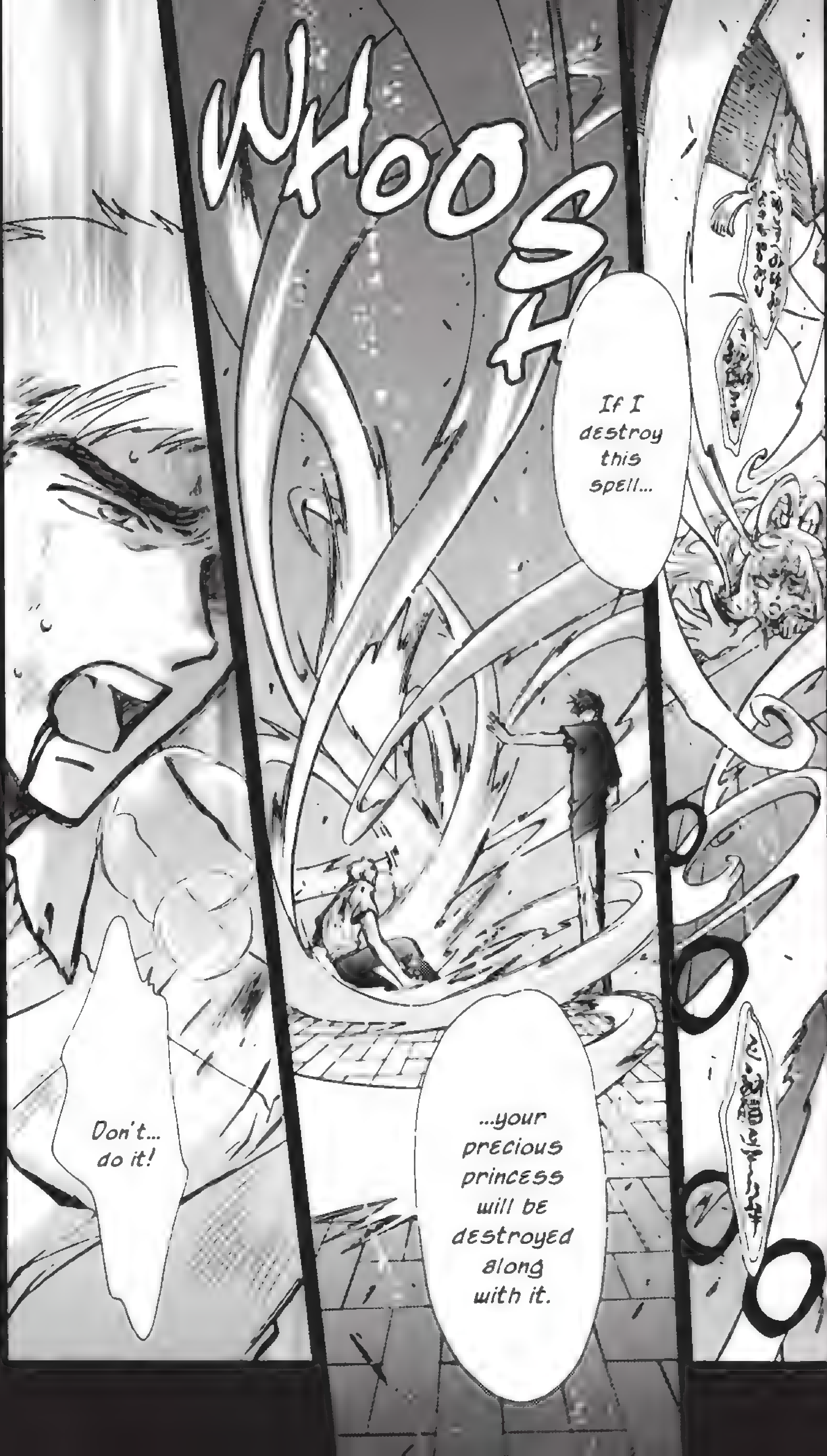

BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP BIP

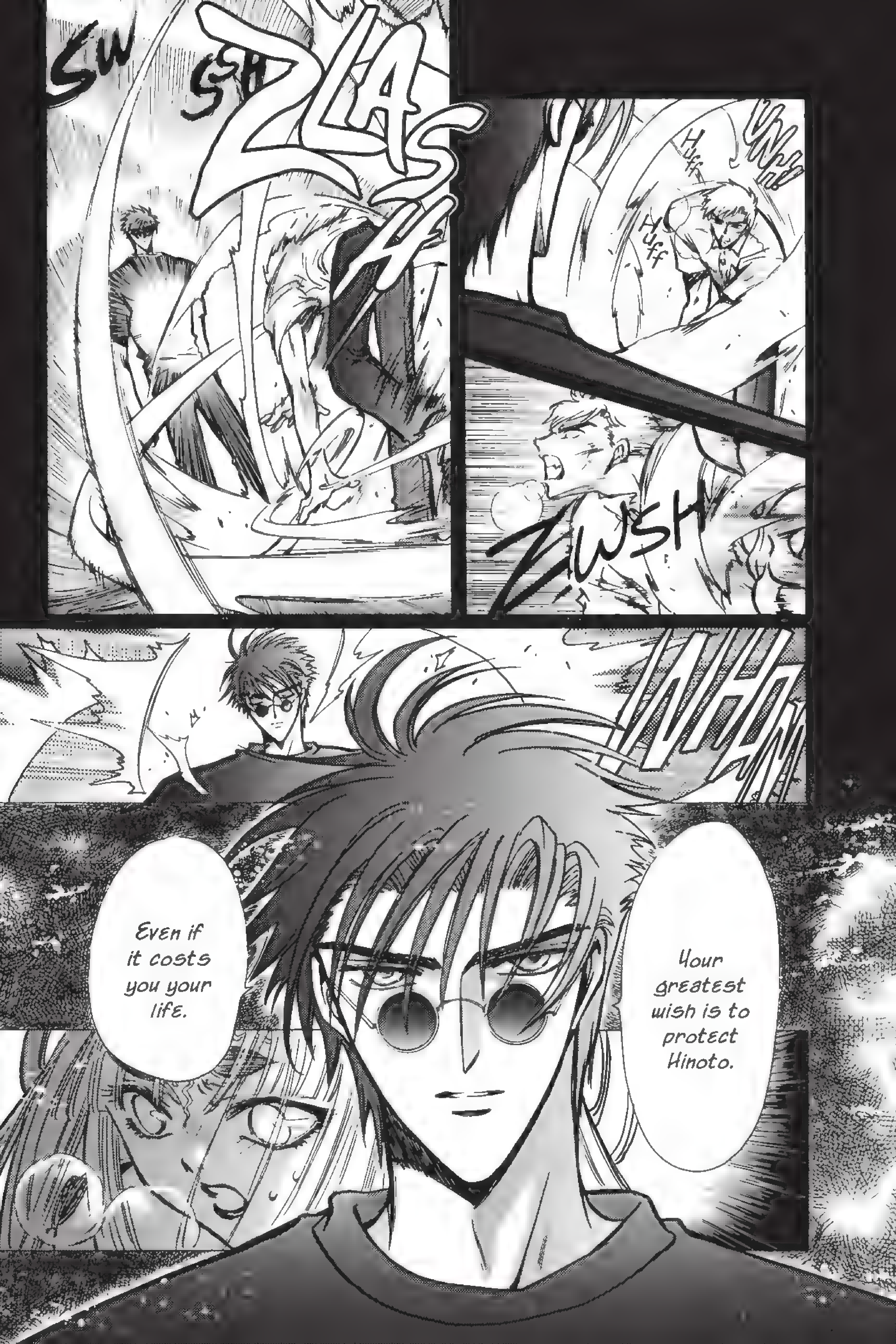

Lord Saiki ...
BLB
GLB
This ...
This is far too cruel!
BLB

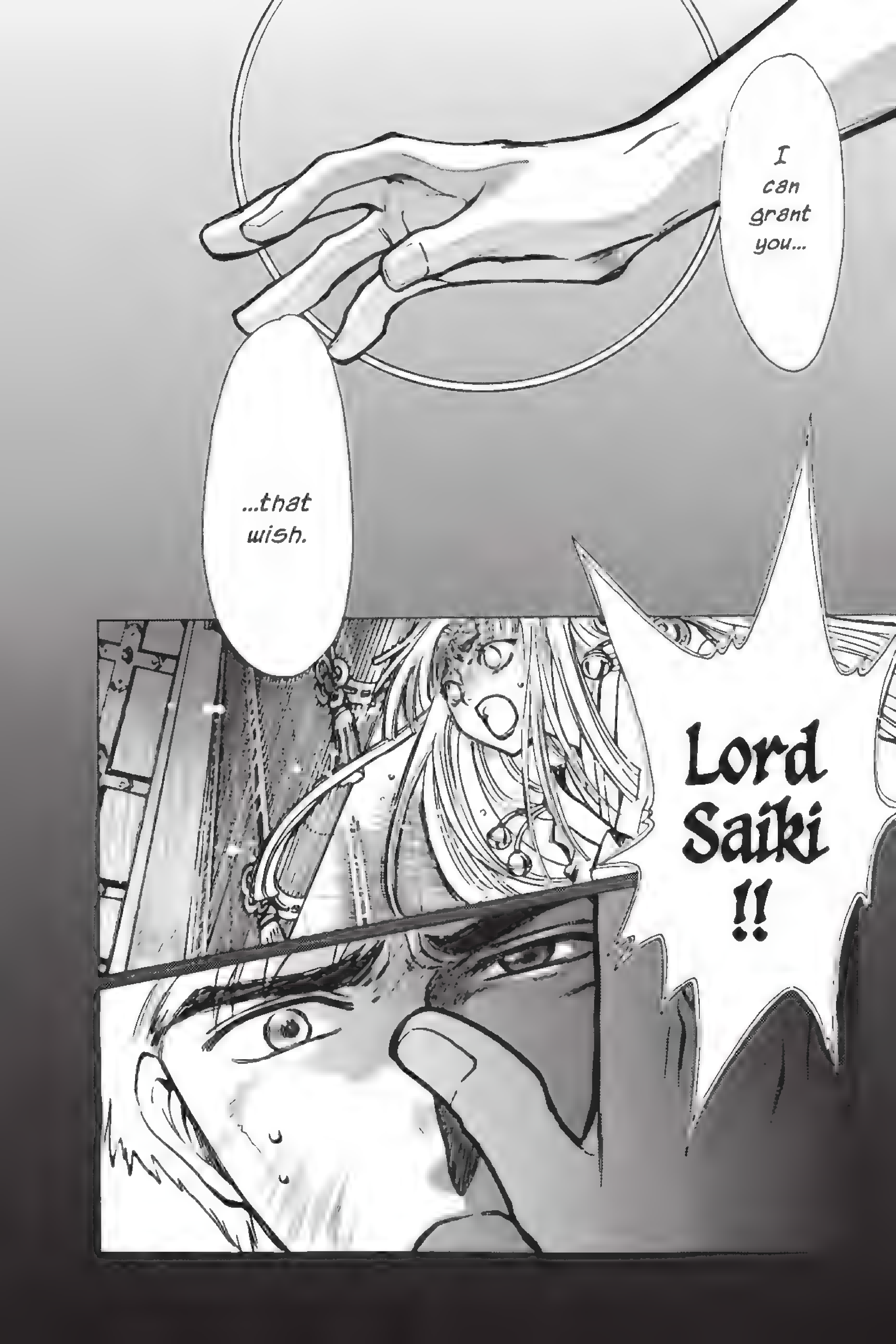

BUT...
...YOU FORESAW IT, DIDN'T YOU?
HAVEN'T EVENTS UNFOLDED ...
...JUST AS YOU KNEW THEY WOULD?
GLOW

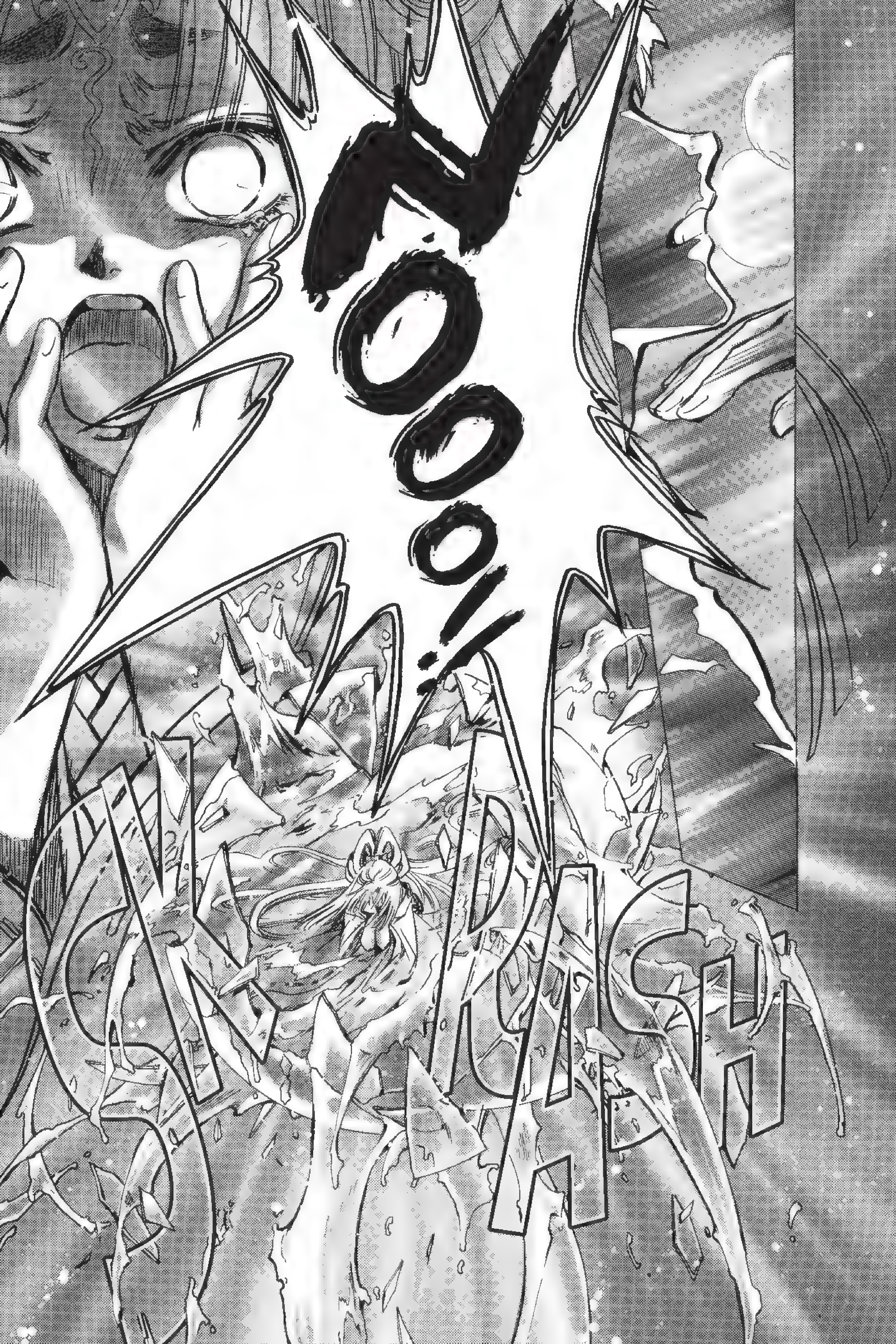


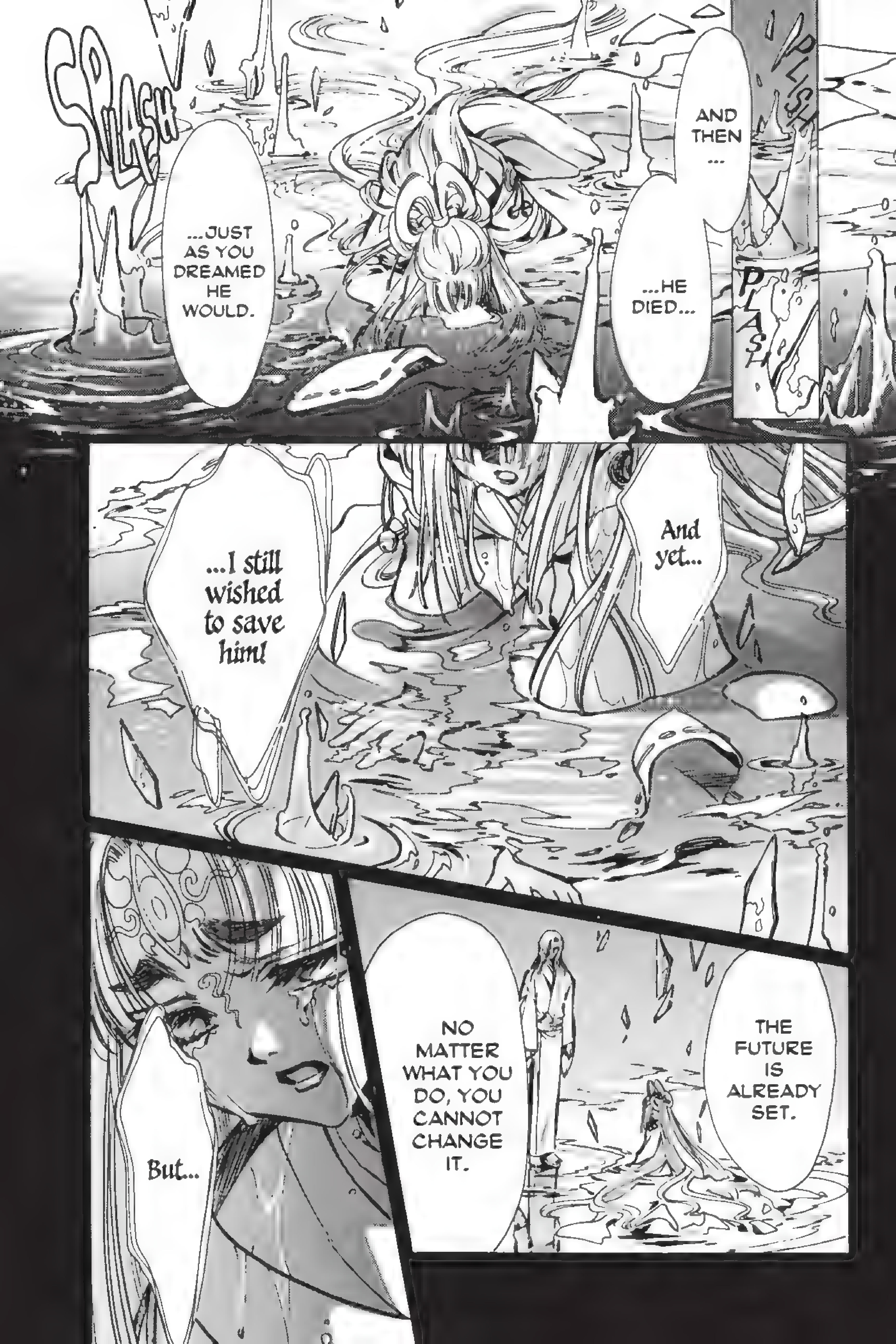

HYOOO
It looks like...
...your dreaming princess is trying to save you.
WHAM
KYAAAA

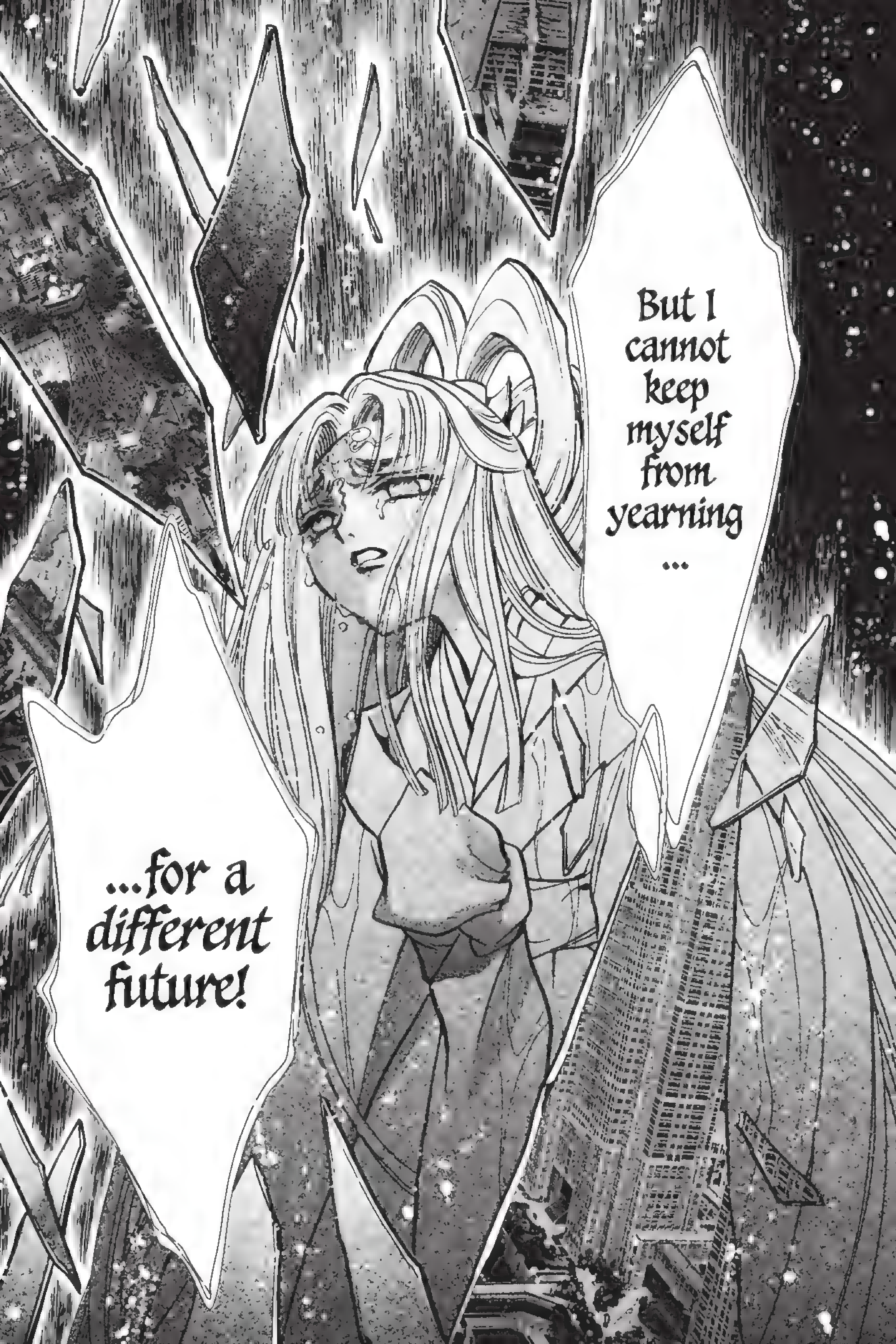

WHOOSH
If I destroy this spell...
...your precious princess will be destroyed along with it.
Don't... do it!

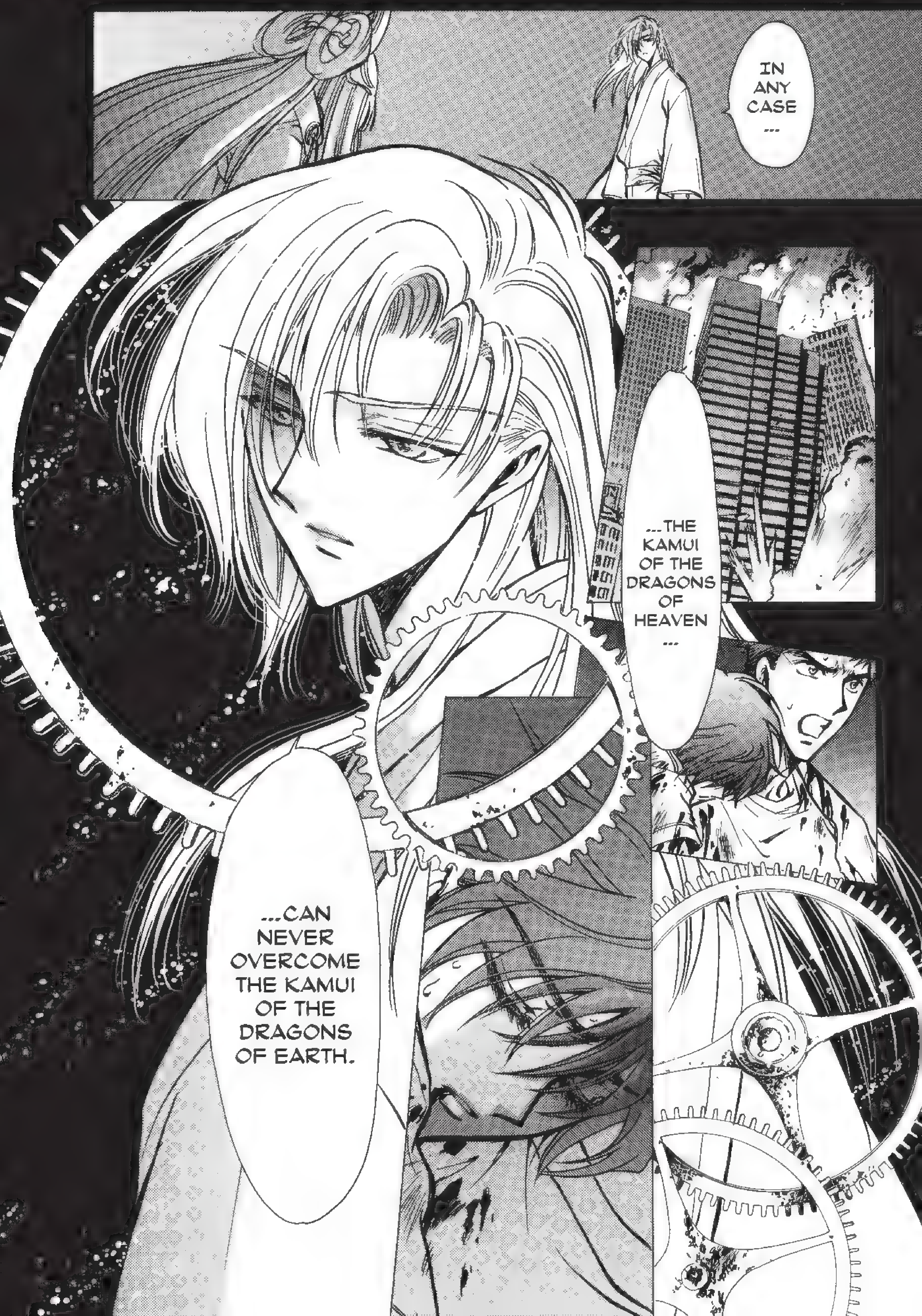

UNH!!
Huff
Huff
ZWSH
SWSSH
ZLASH
WHAM
Your greatest wish is to protect Hinoto.
Even if it costs you your life.

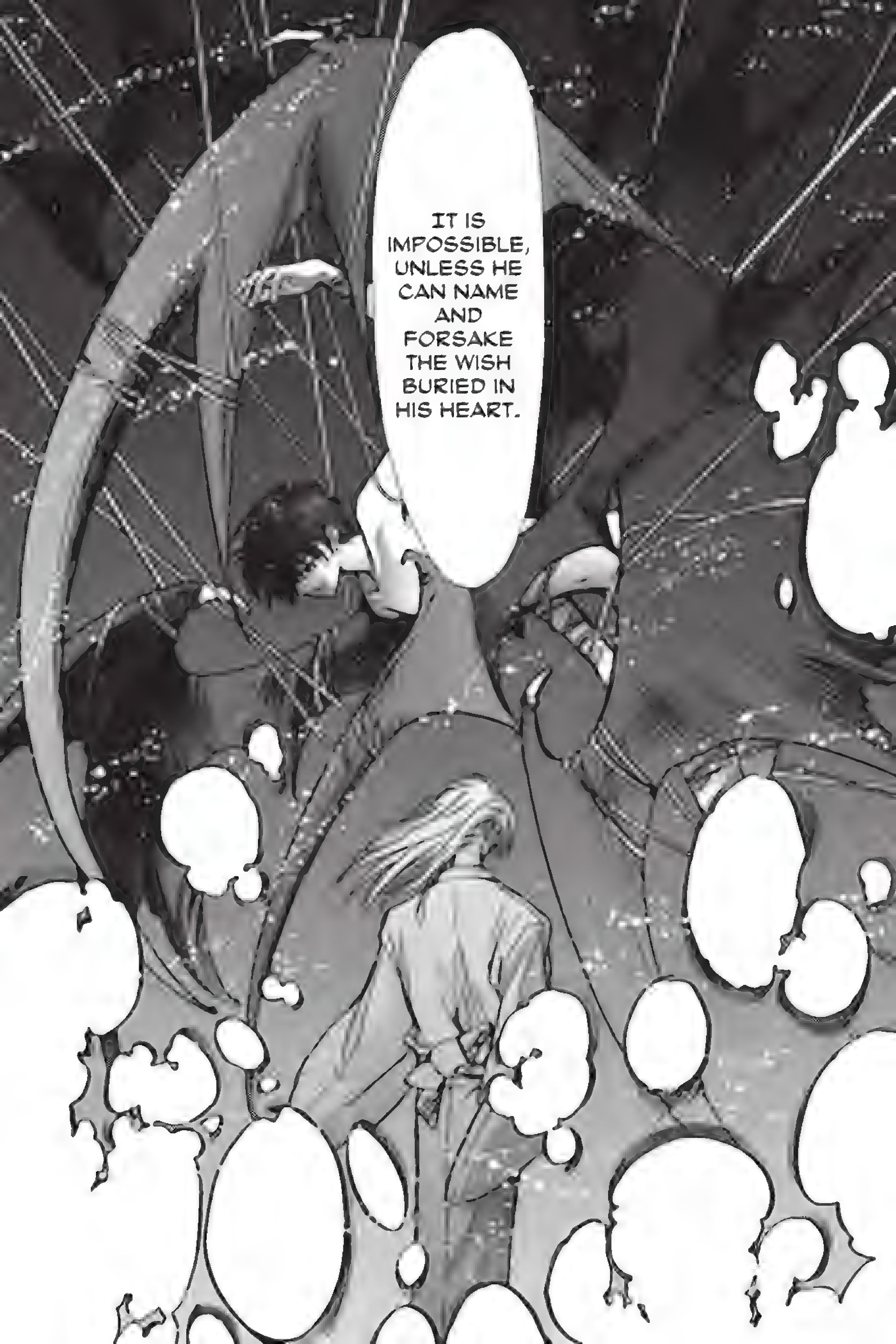

I can grant you...
...that wish.
Lord Saiki !!

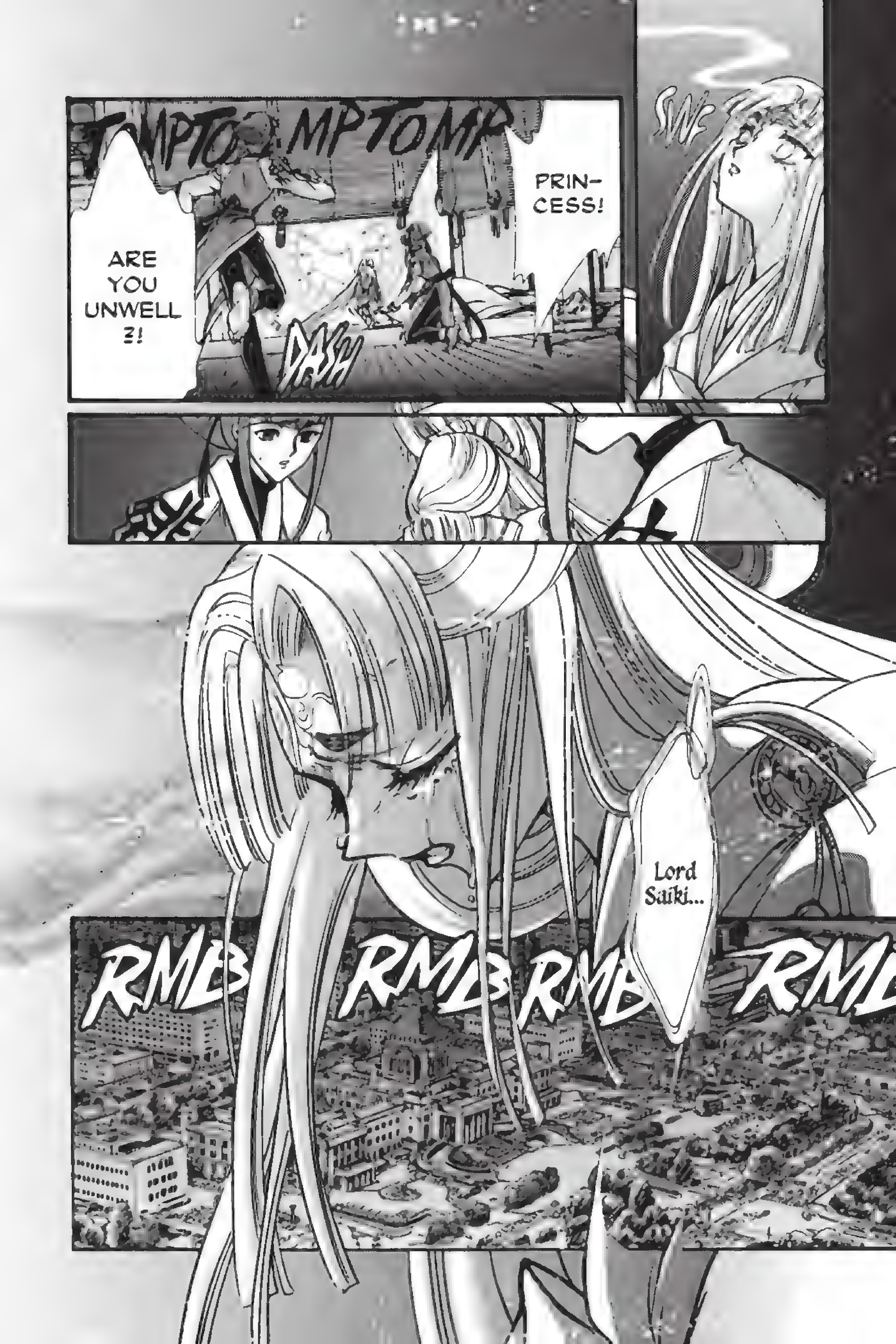

NOOOO!!
CRASH
SPLASH

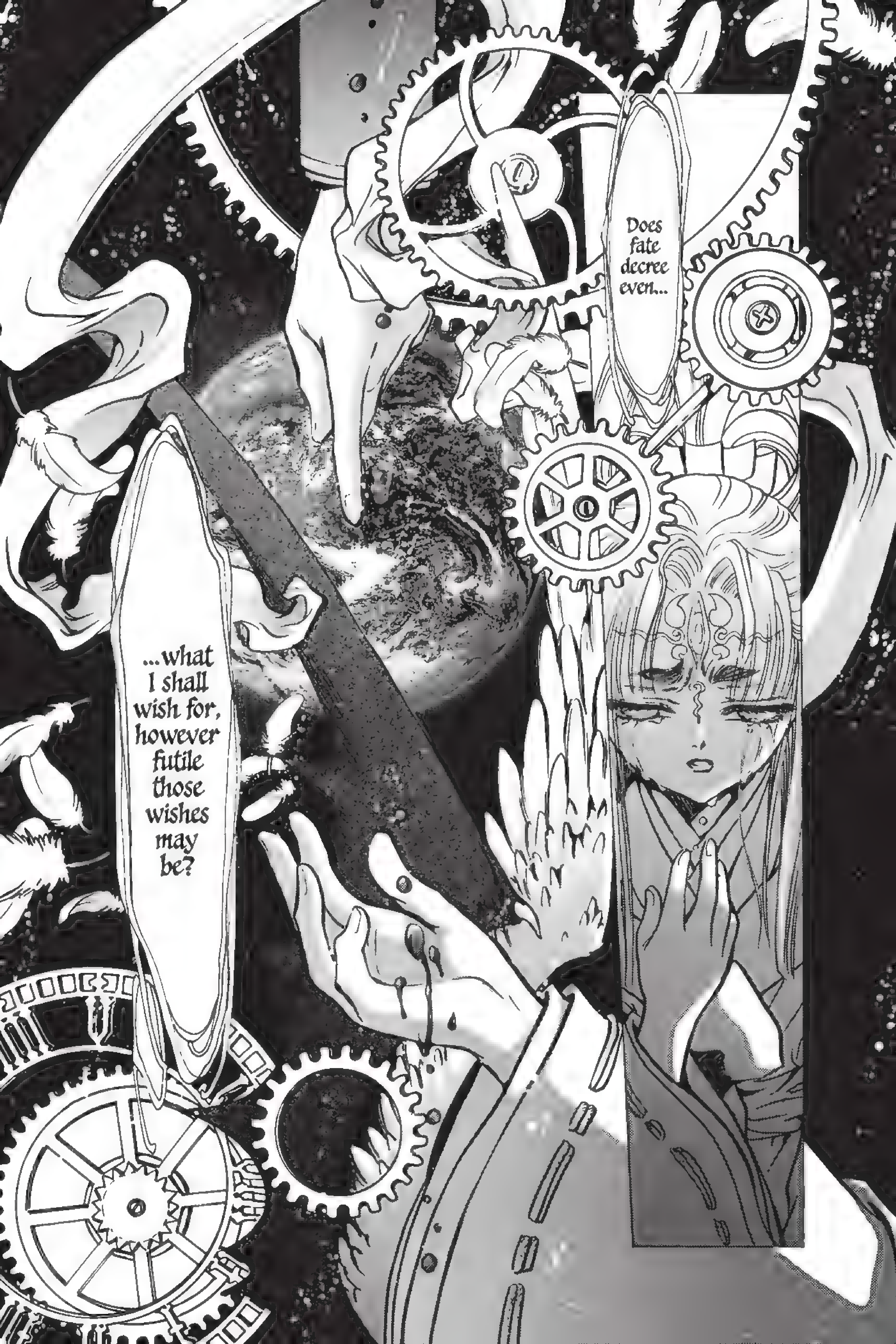

PLISH
PLASH
AND THEN ...
...HE DIED...
...JUST AS YOU DREAMED HE WOULD.
SPLASH
And yet...
...I still wished to save him!
THE FUTURE IS ALREADY SET.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU CANNOT CHANGE IT.
But...

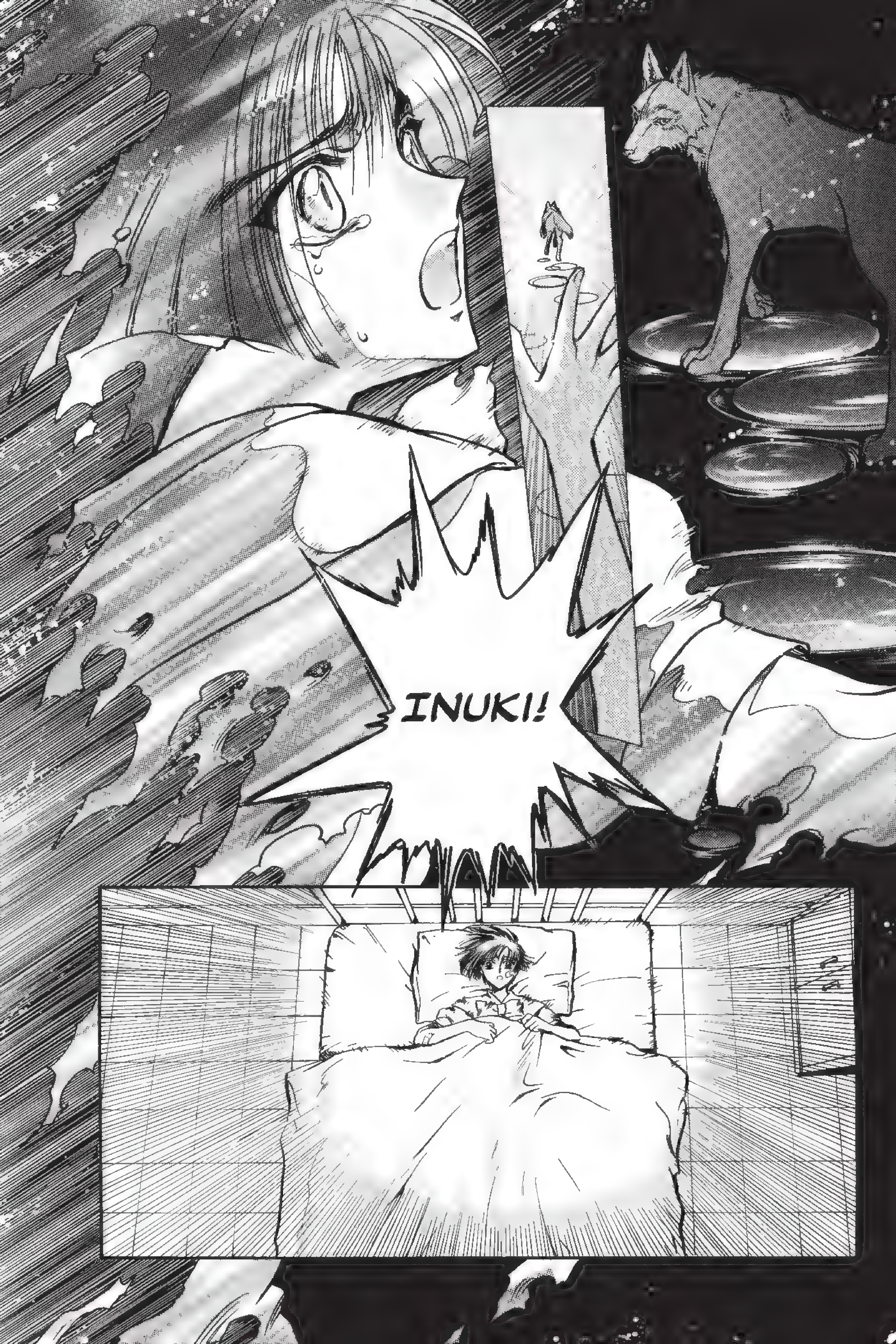

But I cannot keep myself from yearning ...
...for a different future!

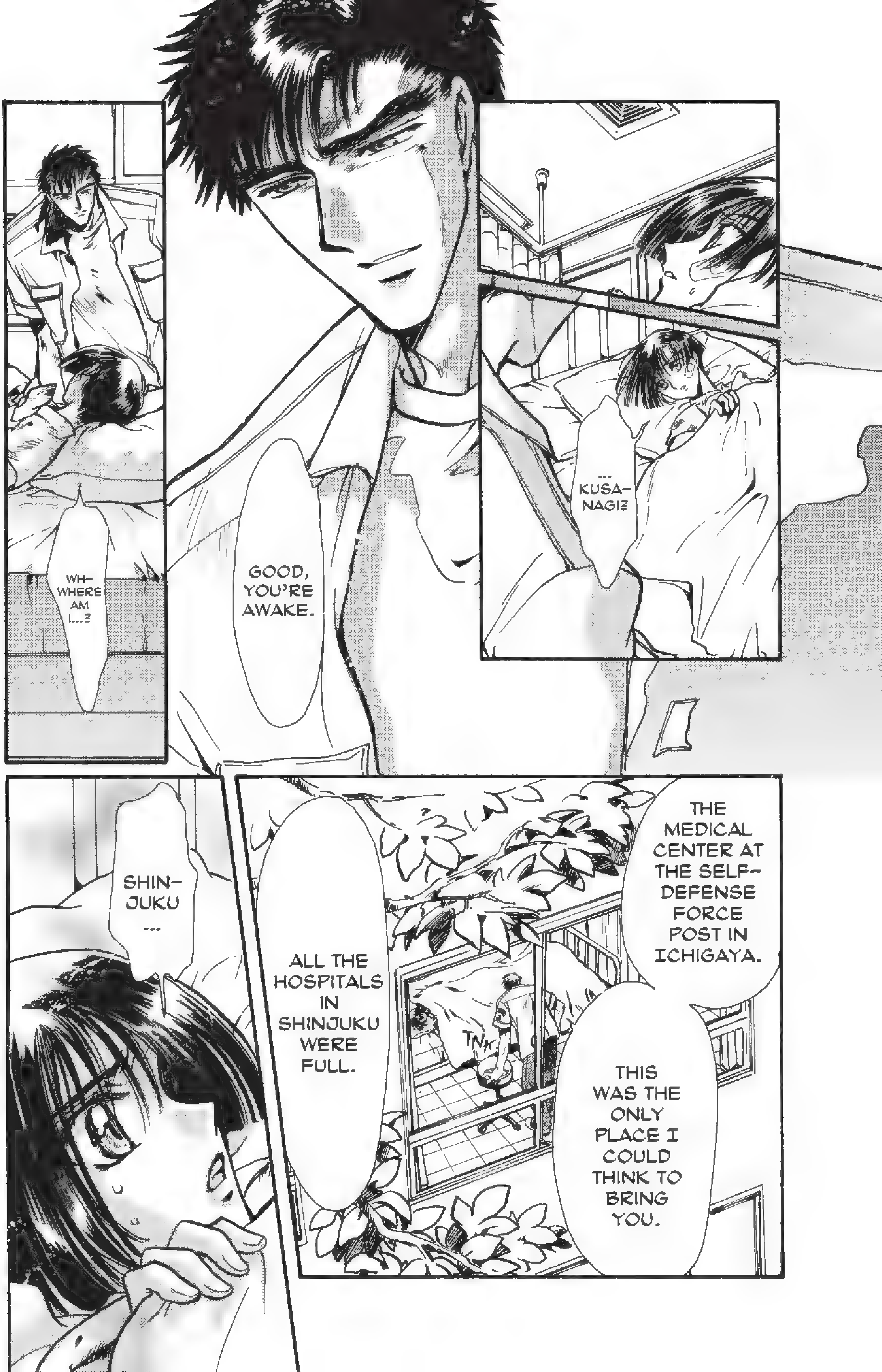

IN ANY CASE ...
...THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN ...
...CAN NEVER OVERCOME THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.

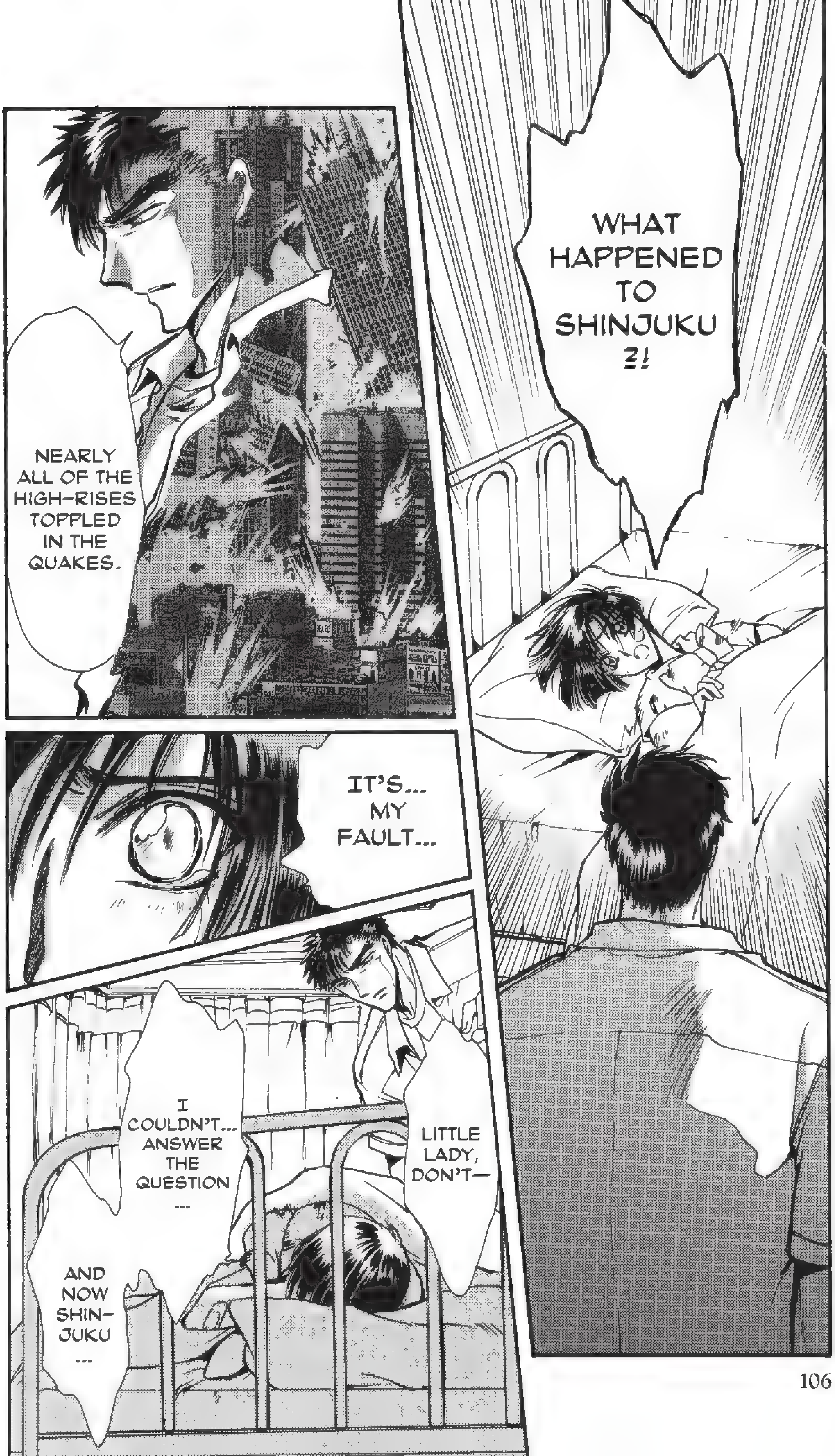

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, UNLESS HE CAN NAME AND FORSAKE THE WISH BURIED IN HIS HEART.

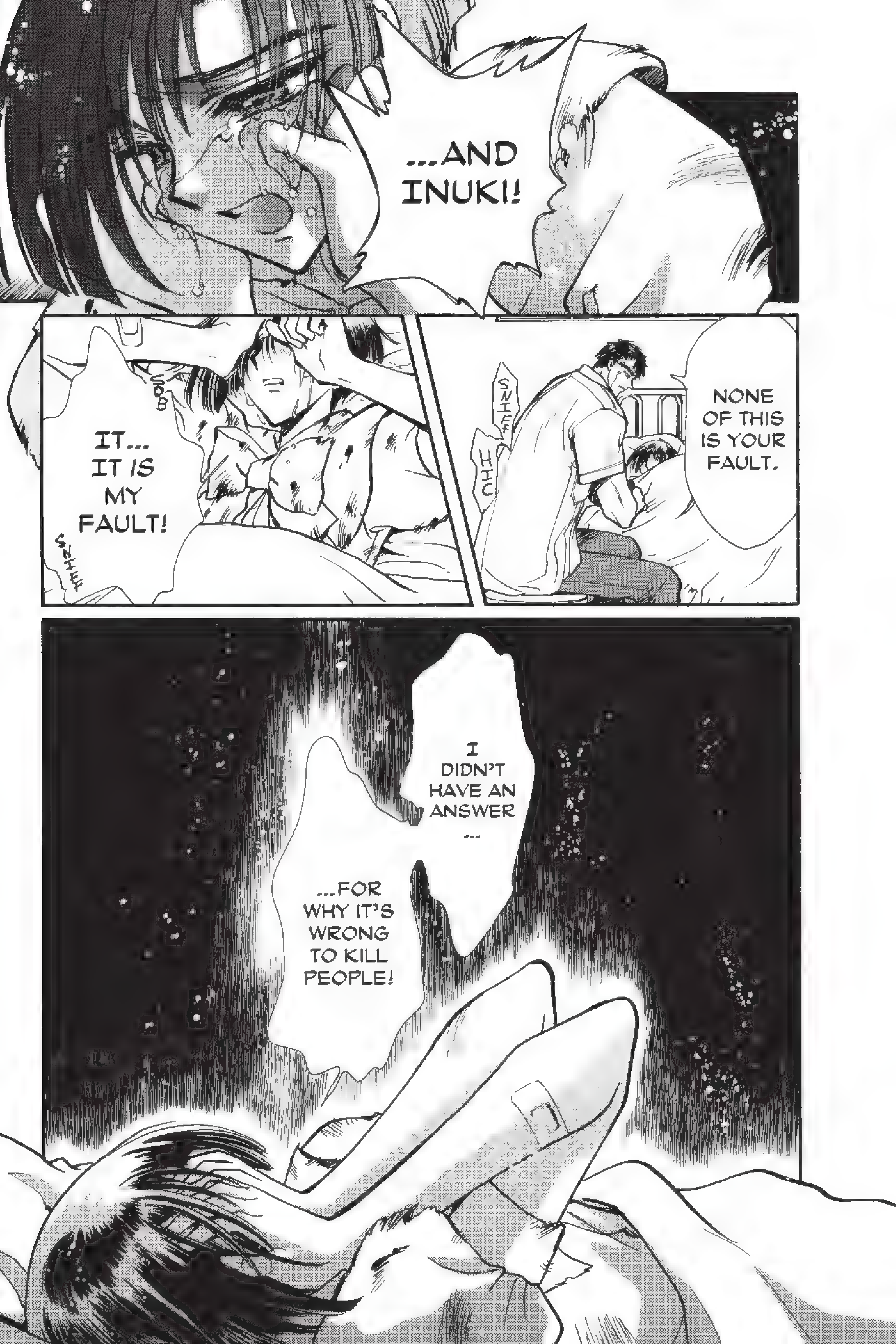

SWE
TMPTOMPTOMPTOMP
PRIN-CESS!
ARE YOU UNWELL ?!
DASH
Lord Saiki...
RMB RMB RMB RMB

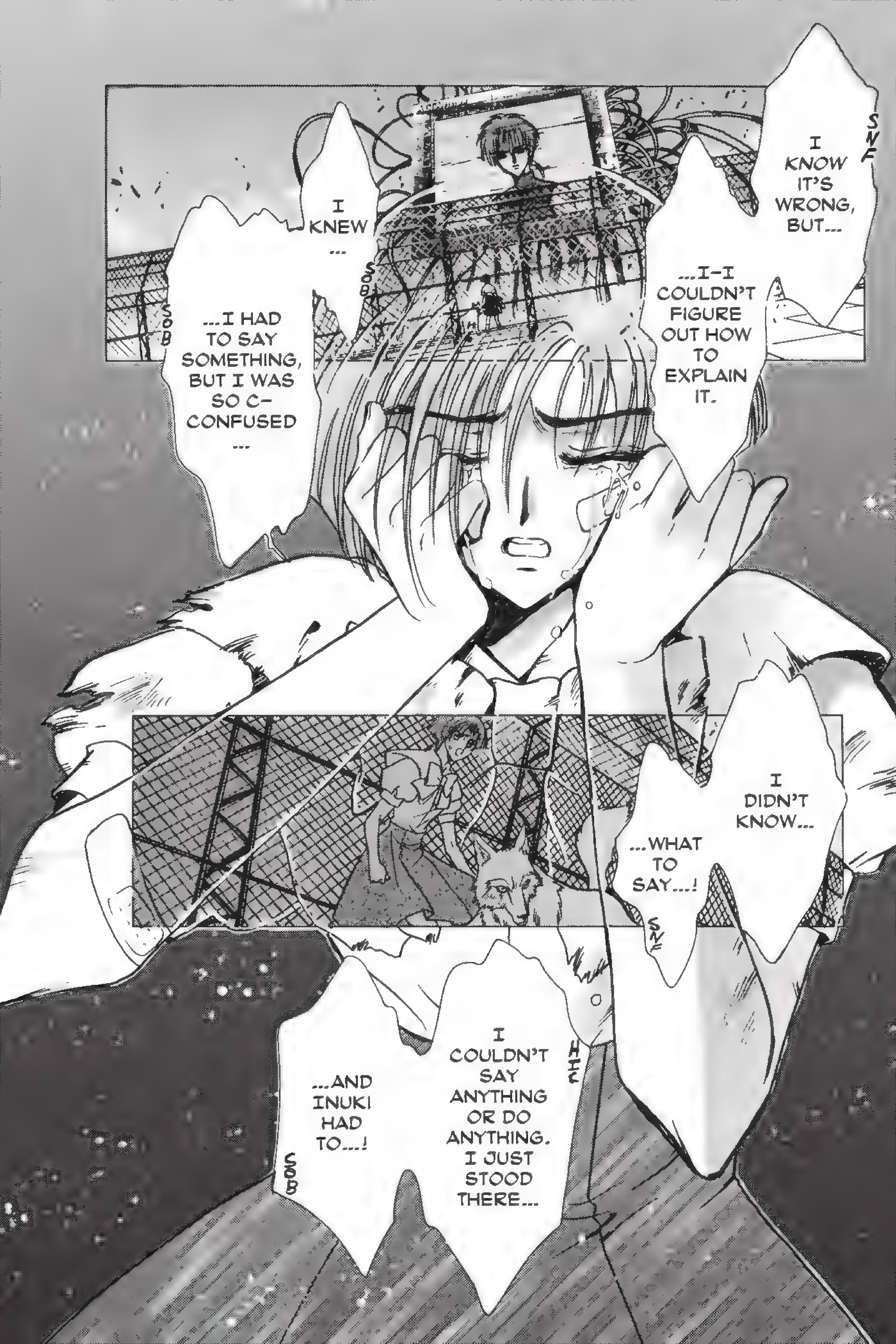

Does fate decree even...
...what I shall wish for, however futile those wishes may be?

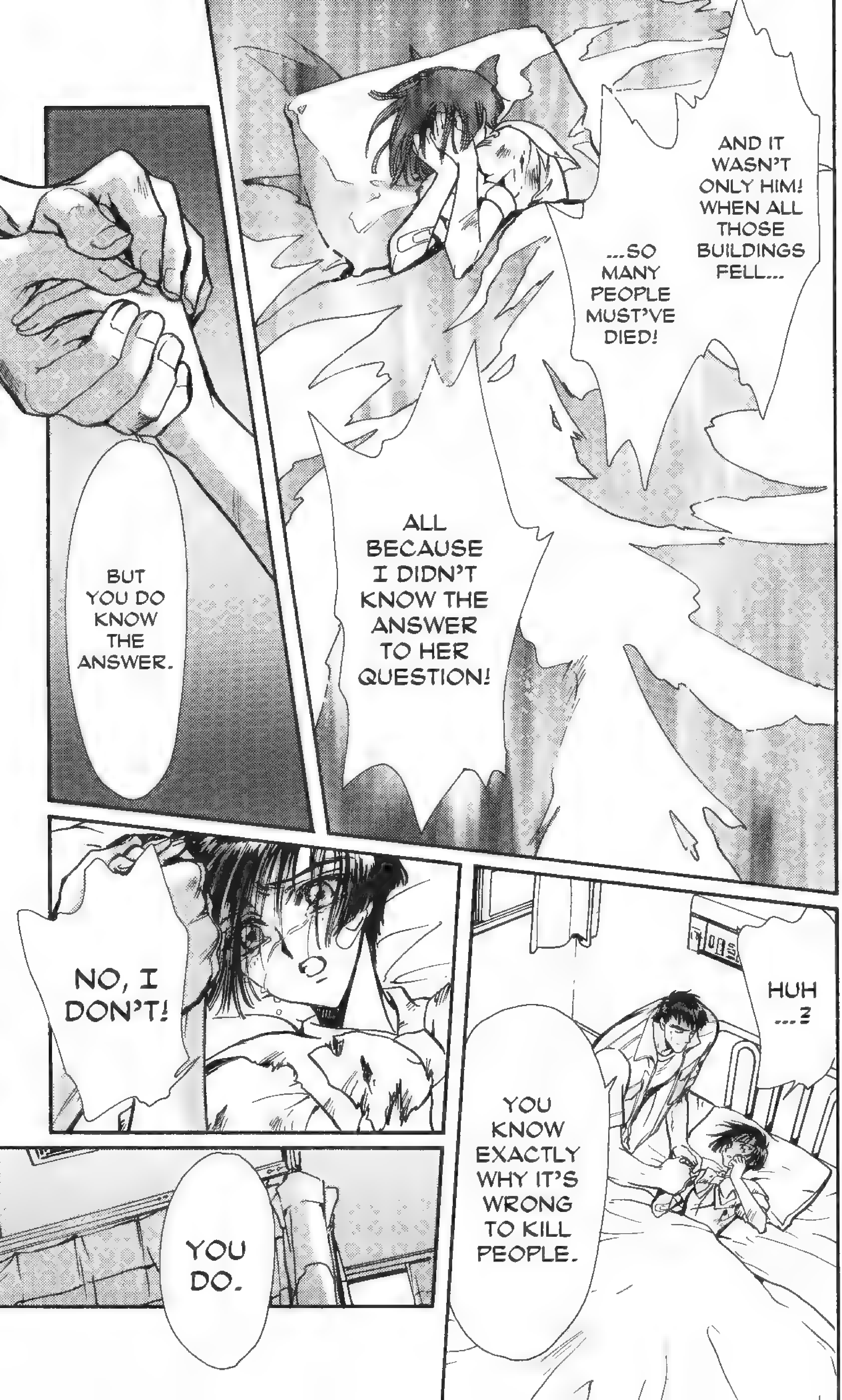

INUKI!

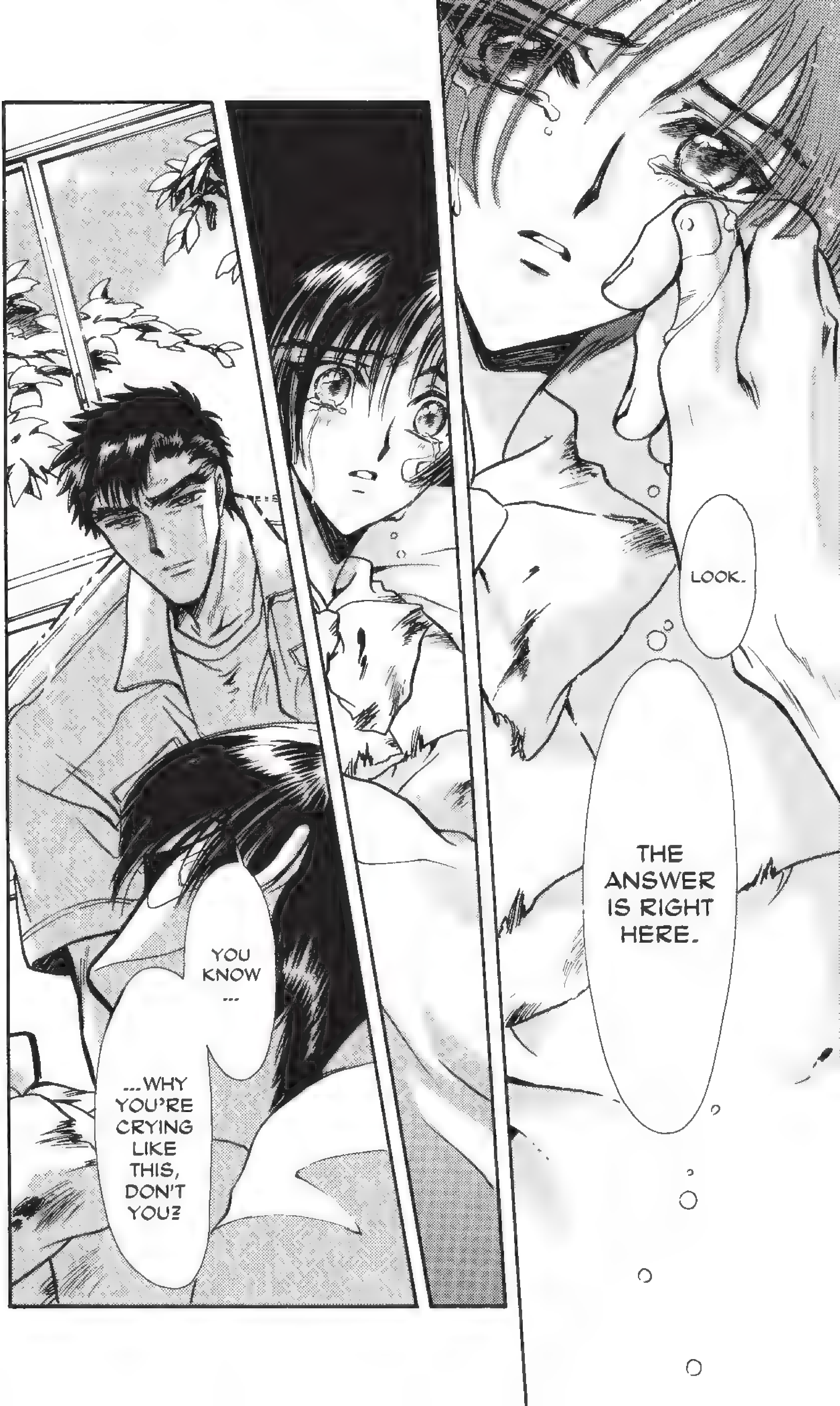

...KUSANAGI?
GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE.
WH-WHERE AM I...?
THE MEDICAL CENTER AT THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE POST IN ICHIGAYA.
THIS WAS THE ONLY PLACE I COULD THINK TO BRING YOU.
TNK
ALL THE HOSPITALS IN SHINJUKU WERE FULL.
SHINJUKU...

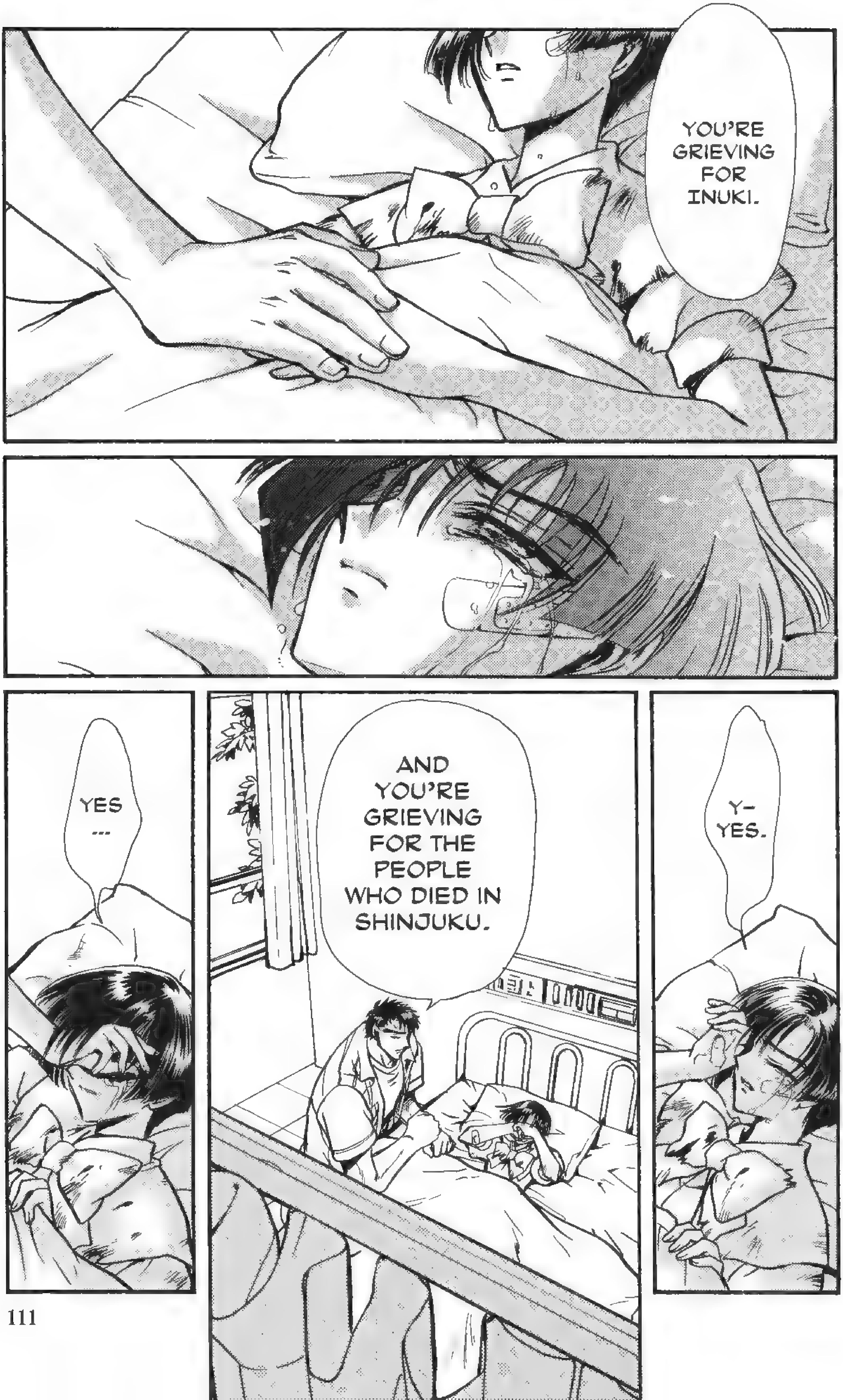

WHAT HAPPENED TO SHINJUKU?!
NEARLY ALL OF THE HIGH-RISES TOPPLED IN THE QUAKES.
IT'S... MY FAULT...
I COULDN'T... ANSWER THE QUESTION...
AND NOW SHINJUKU...
LITTLE LADY, DON'T—

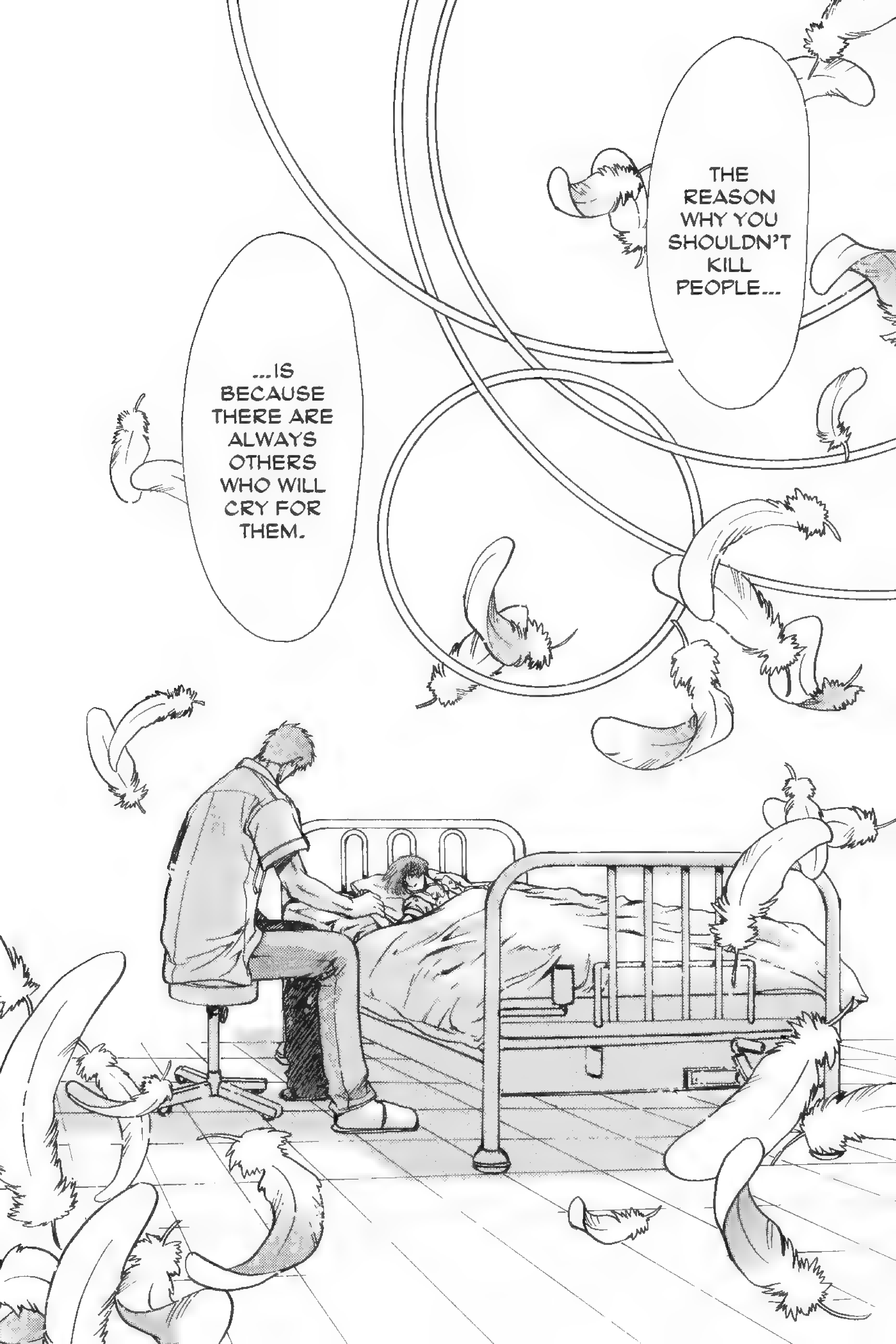

...AND INUKI!
SNIFF
HIC
NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT.
SOB
IT... IT IS MY FAULT!
SNIFF
I DIDN'T HAVE AN ANSWER ...
...FOR WHY IT'S WRONG TO KILL PEOPLE!

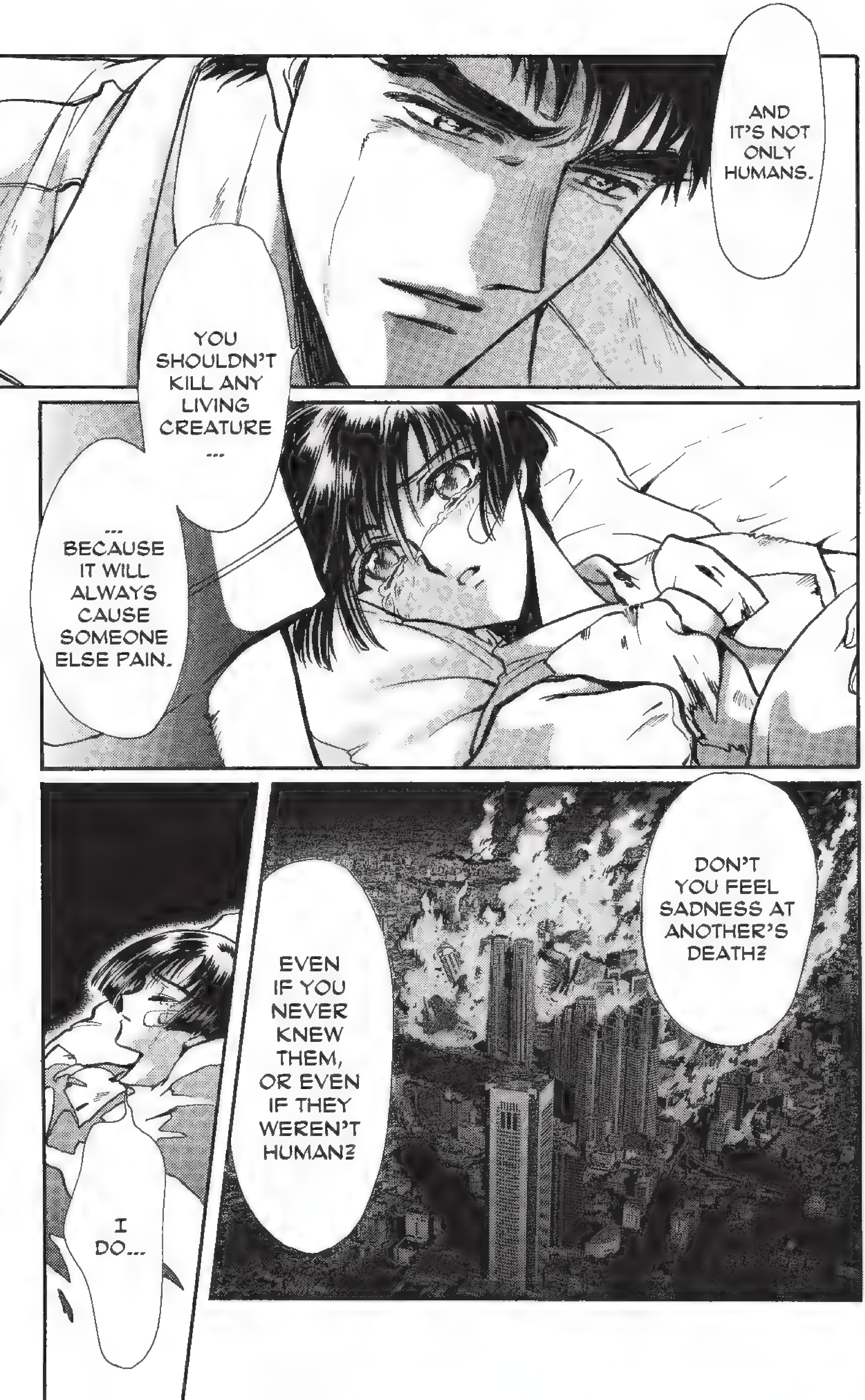

I KNOW IT'S WRONG, BUT...
SNF
...I-I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO EXPLAIN IT.
I KNEW...
SOB
...I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT I WAS SO C-CONFUSED...
SOB
I DIDN'T KNOW...
...WHAT TO SAY...!
SNF
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING OR DO ANYTHING. I JUST STOOD THERE...
HIC
...AND INUKI HAD TO...!
SOB

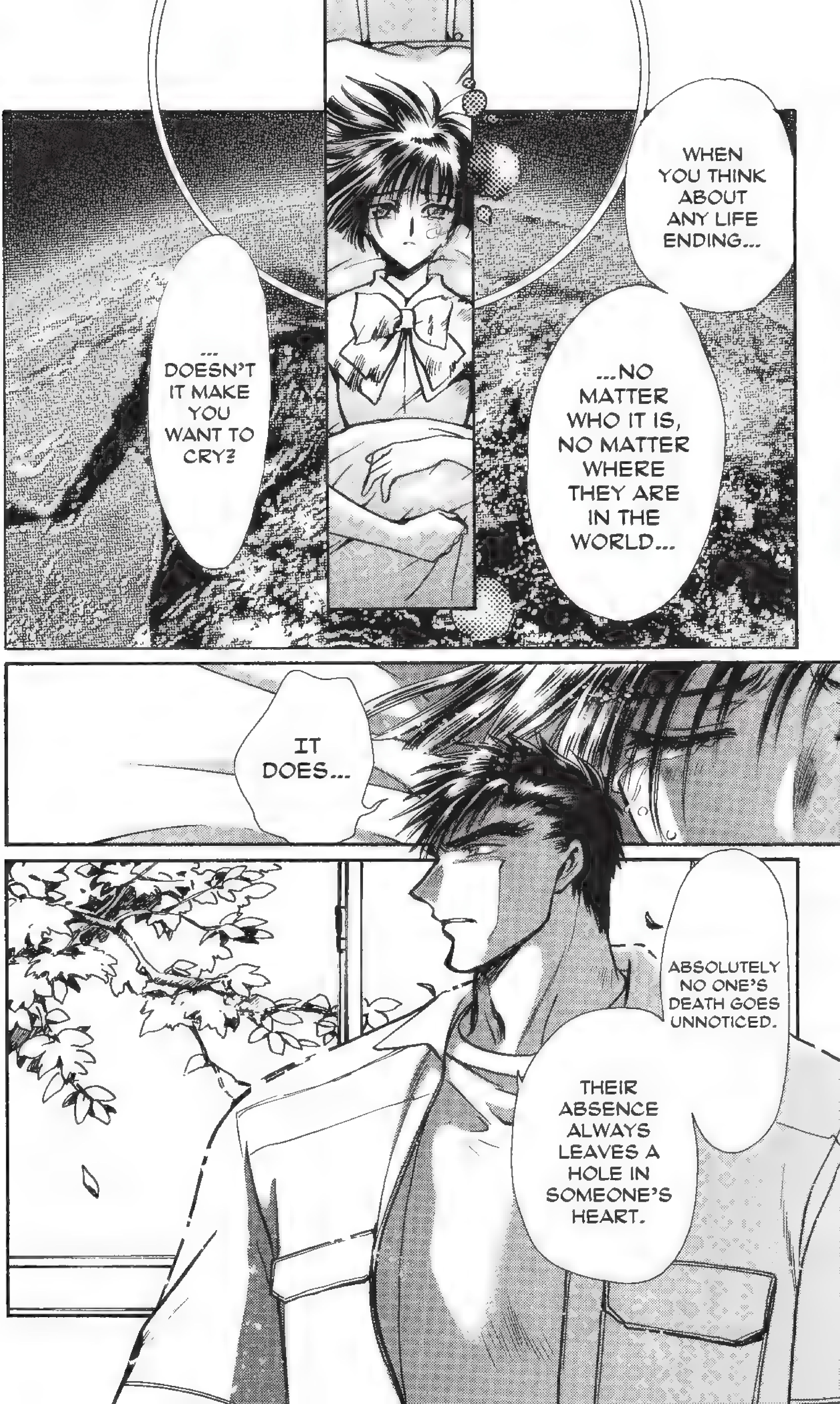

AND IT WASN'T ONLY HIM! WHEN ALL THOSE BUILDINGS FELL...
...SO MANY PEOPLE MUST'VE DIED!
ALL BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO HER QUESTION!
BUT YOU DO KNOW THE ANSWER.
NO, I DON'T!
YOU DO.
HUH ...?
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHY IT'S WRONG TO KILL PEOPLE.

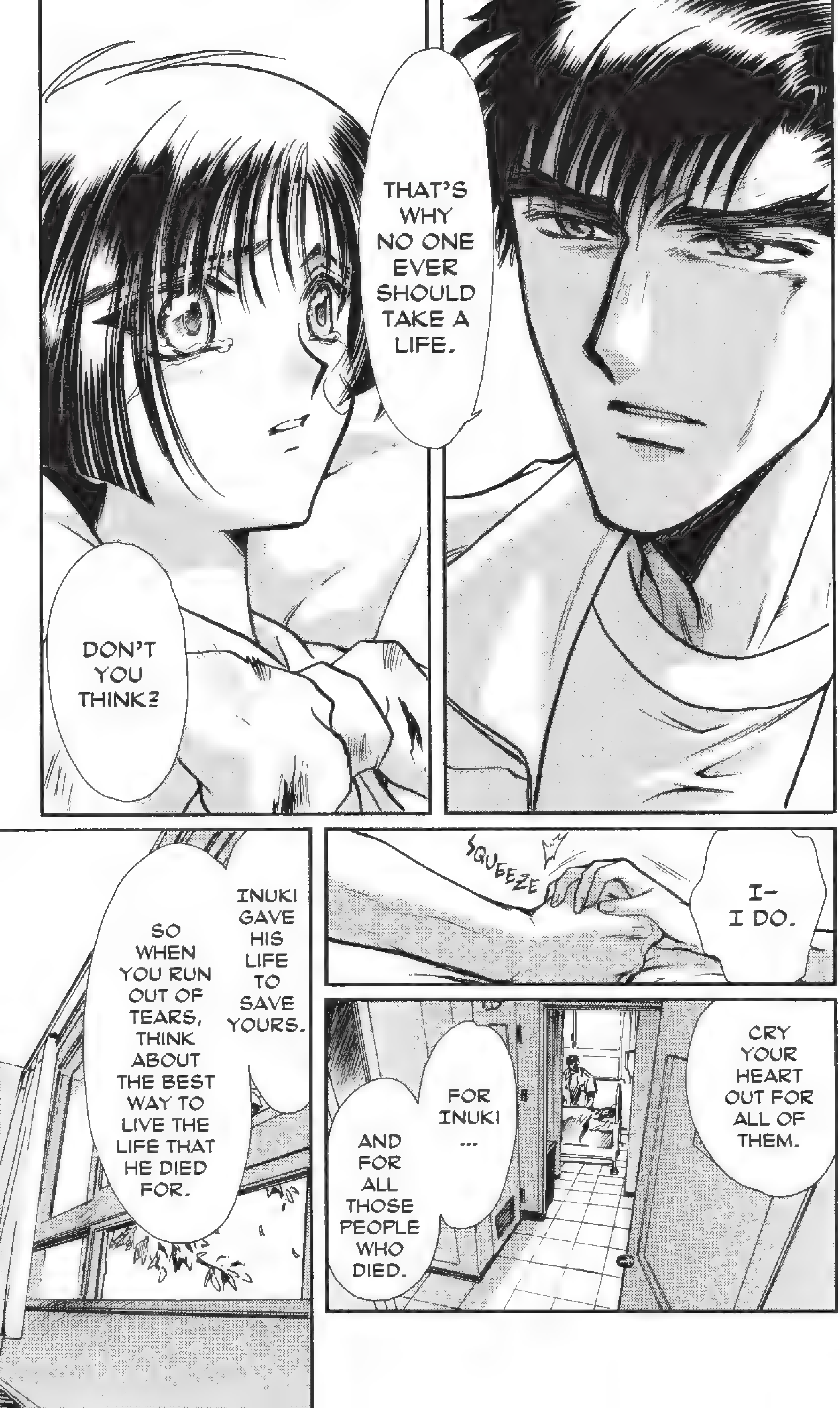

LOOK.
THE ANSWER IS RIGHT HERE.
YOU KNOW ...
...WHY YOU'RE CRYING LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU?

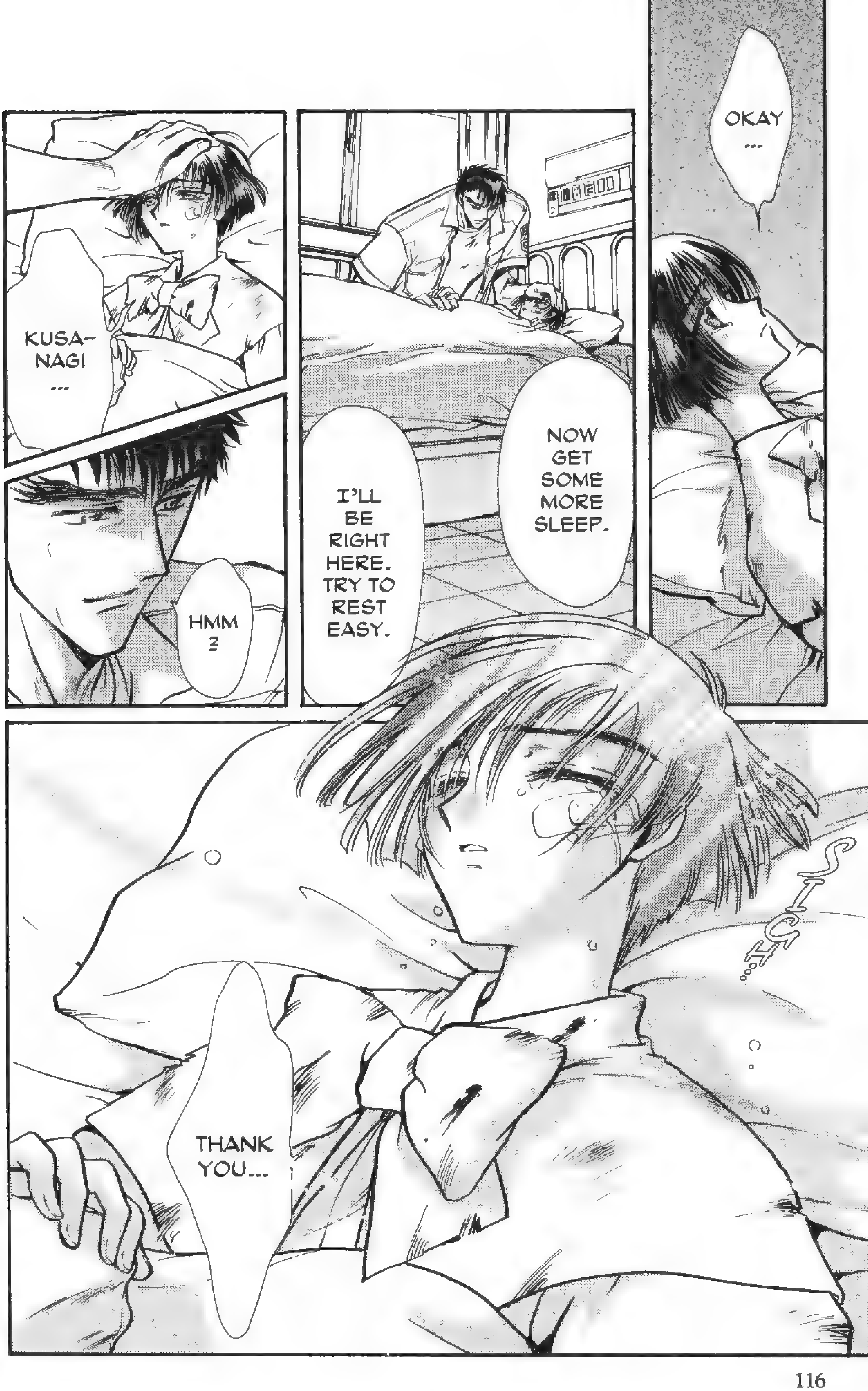

YOU'RE GRIEVING FOR INUKI.
Y- YES.
AND YOU'RE GRIEVING FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DIED IN SHINJUKU.
YES ...

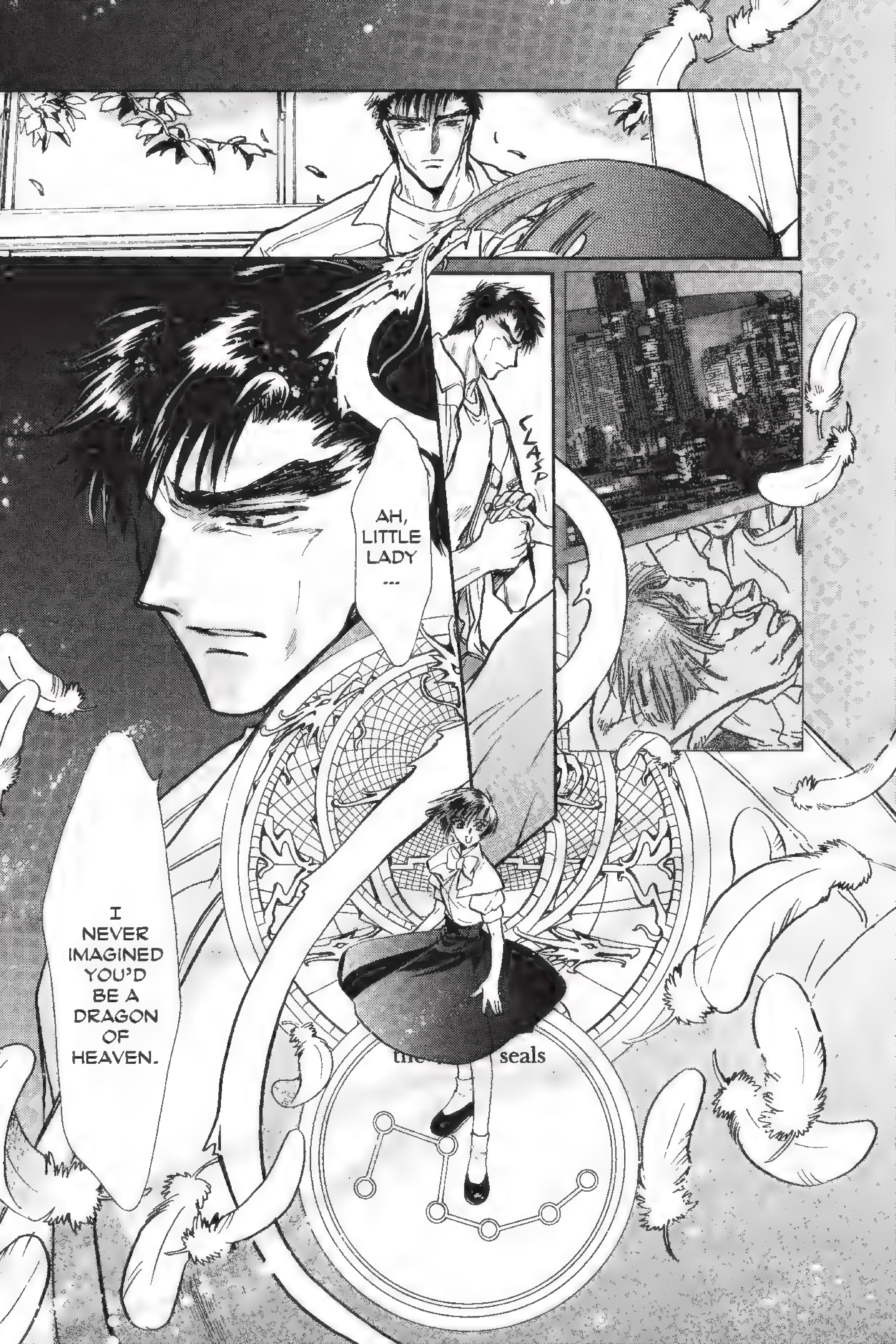

THE REASON WHY YOU SHOULDN'T KILL PEOPLE...
...IS BECAUSE THERE ARE ALWAYS OTHERS WHO WILL CRY FOR THEM.

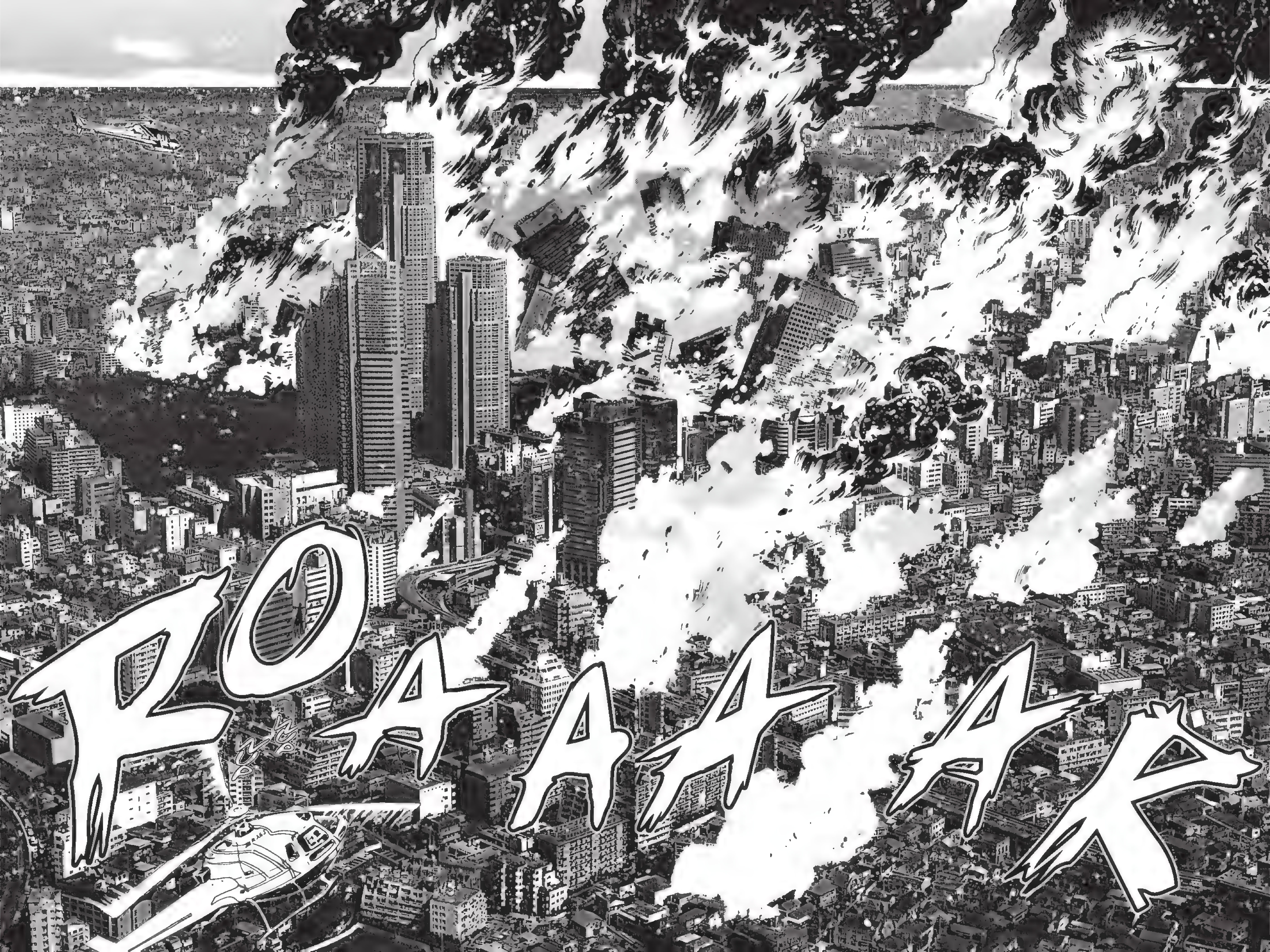

AND IT'S NOT ONLY HUMANS.
YOU SHOULDN'T KILL ANY LIVING CREATURE ...
... BECAUSE IT WILL ALWAYS CAUSE SOMEONE ELSE PAIN.
DON'T YOU FEEL SADNESS AT ANOTHER'S DEATH?
EVEN IF YOU NEVER KNEW THEM, OR EVEN IF THEY WEREN'T HUMAN?
I DO...

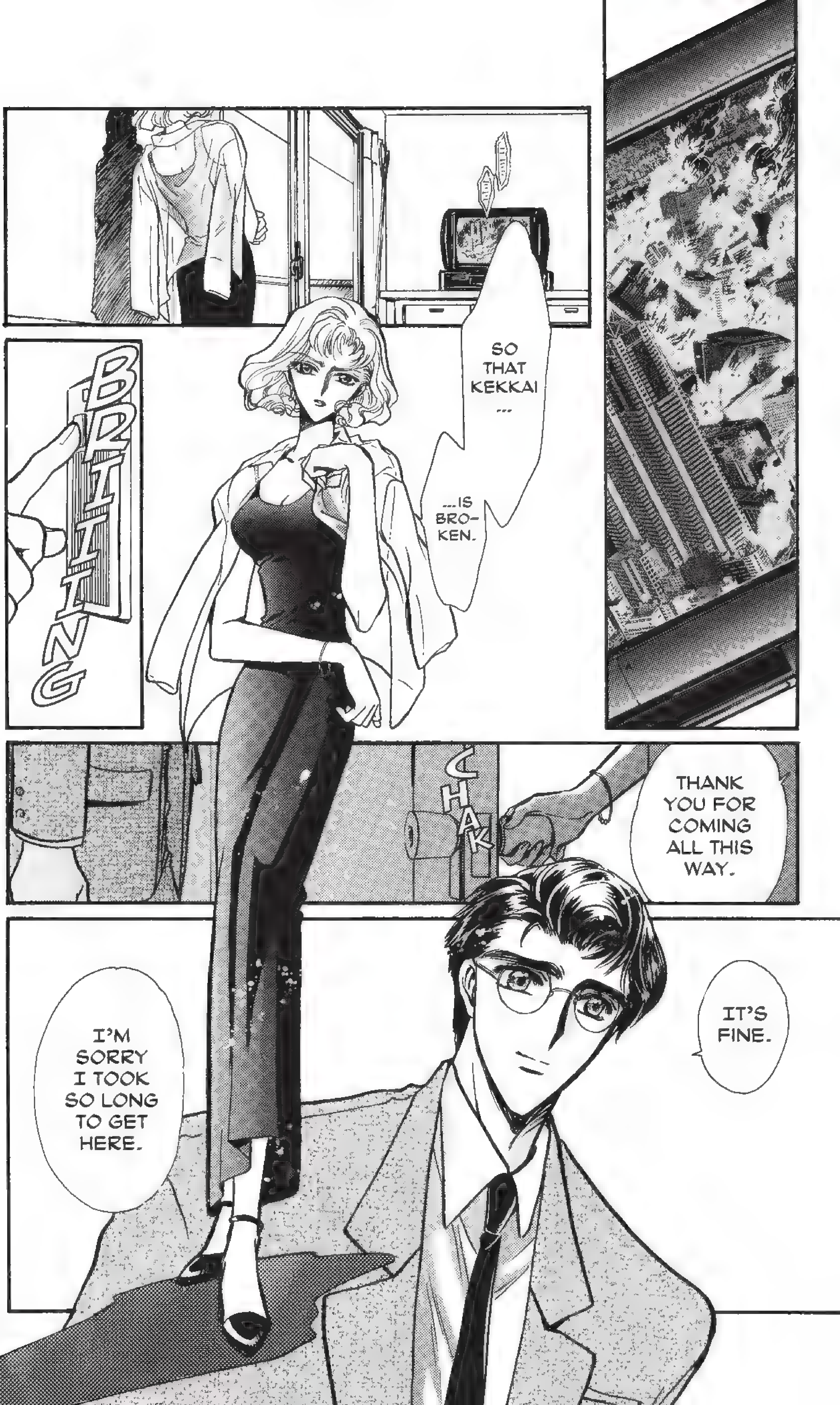

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT ANY LIFE ENDING...
...NO MATTER WHO IT IS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE IN THE WORLD...
...DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WANT TO CRY?
IT DOES...
ABSOLUTELY NO ONE'S DEATH GOES UNNOTICED.
THEIR ABSENCE ALWAYS LEAVES A HOLE IN SOMEONE'S HEART.

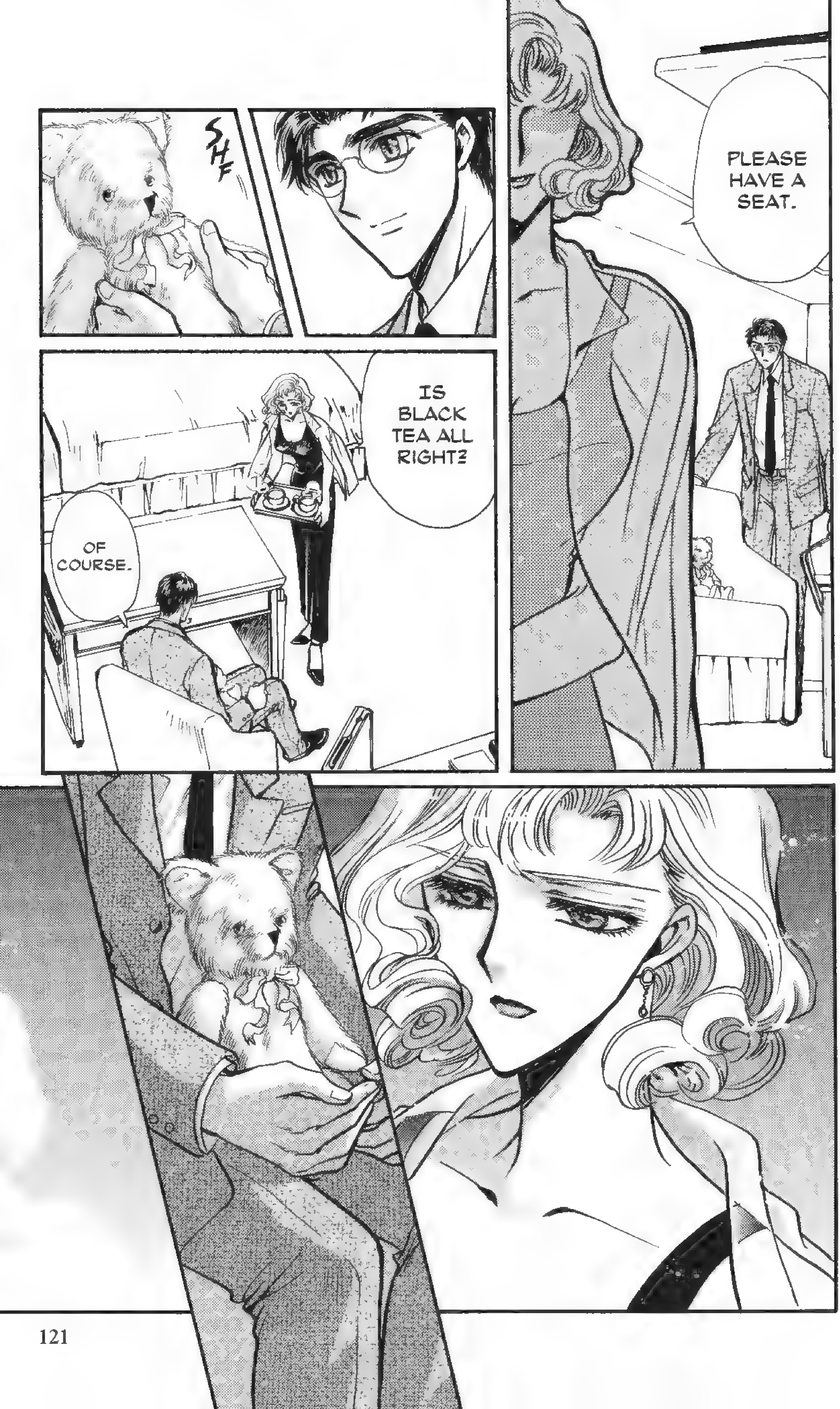

THAT'S WHY NO ONE EVER SHOULD TAKE A LIFE.
DON'T YOU THINK?
SQUEEZE
I— I DO.
CRY YOUR HEART OUT FOR ALL OF THEM.
FOR INUKI ...
AND FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO DIED.
INUKI GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE YOURS.
SO WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF TEARS, THINK ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO LIVE THE LIFE THAT HE DIED FOR.

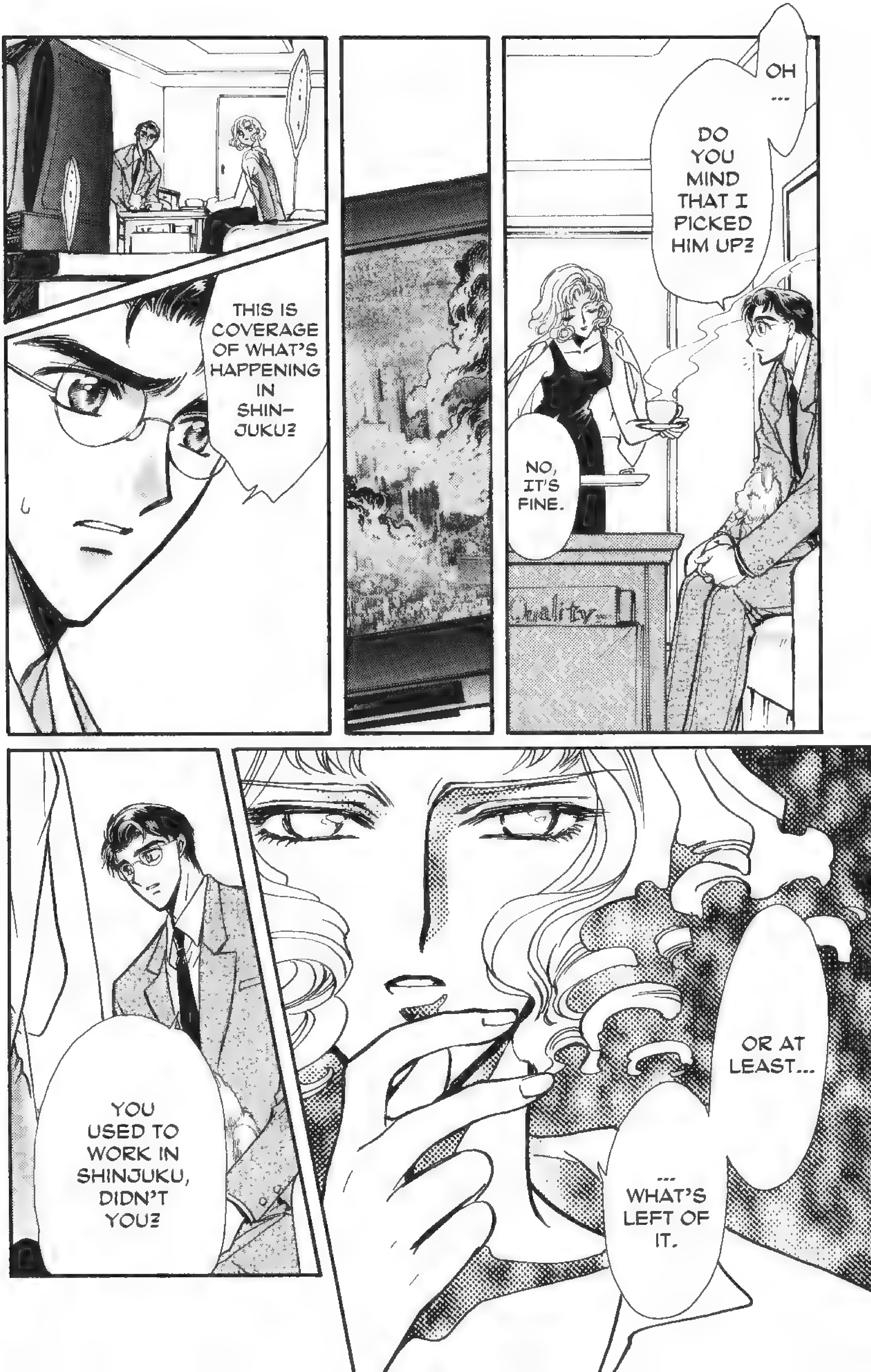

KUSA-NAGI ...
HMM ?
NOW GET SOME MORE SLEEP.
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE. TRY TO REST EASY.
OKAY ...
SIGH...
THANK YOU...

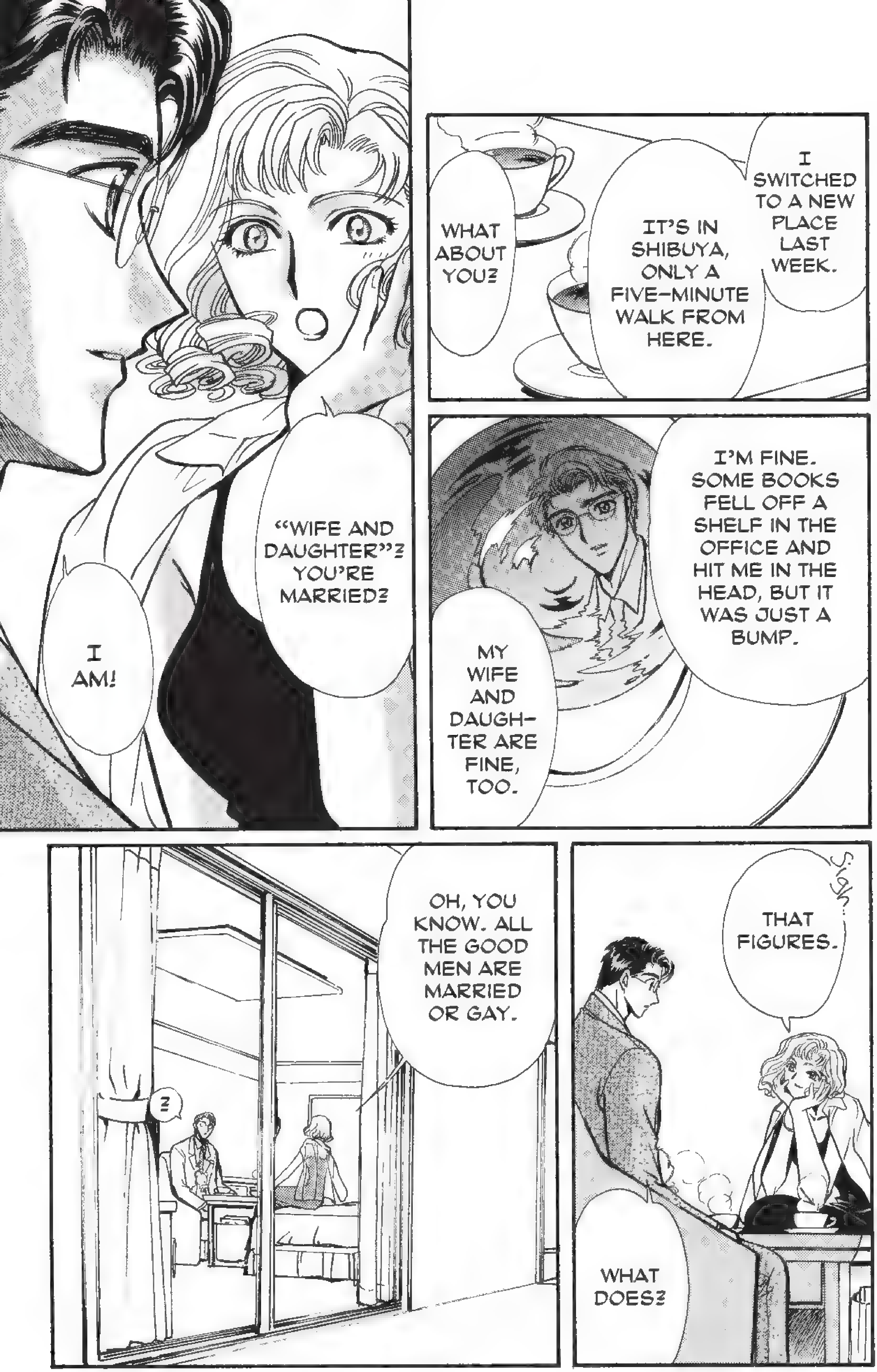

CLASP
AH, LITTLE LADY ...
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D BE A DRAGON OF HEAVEN.
the seals

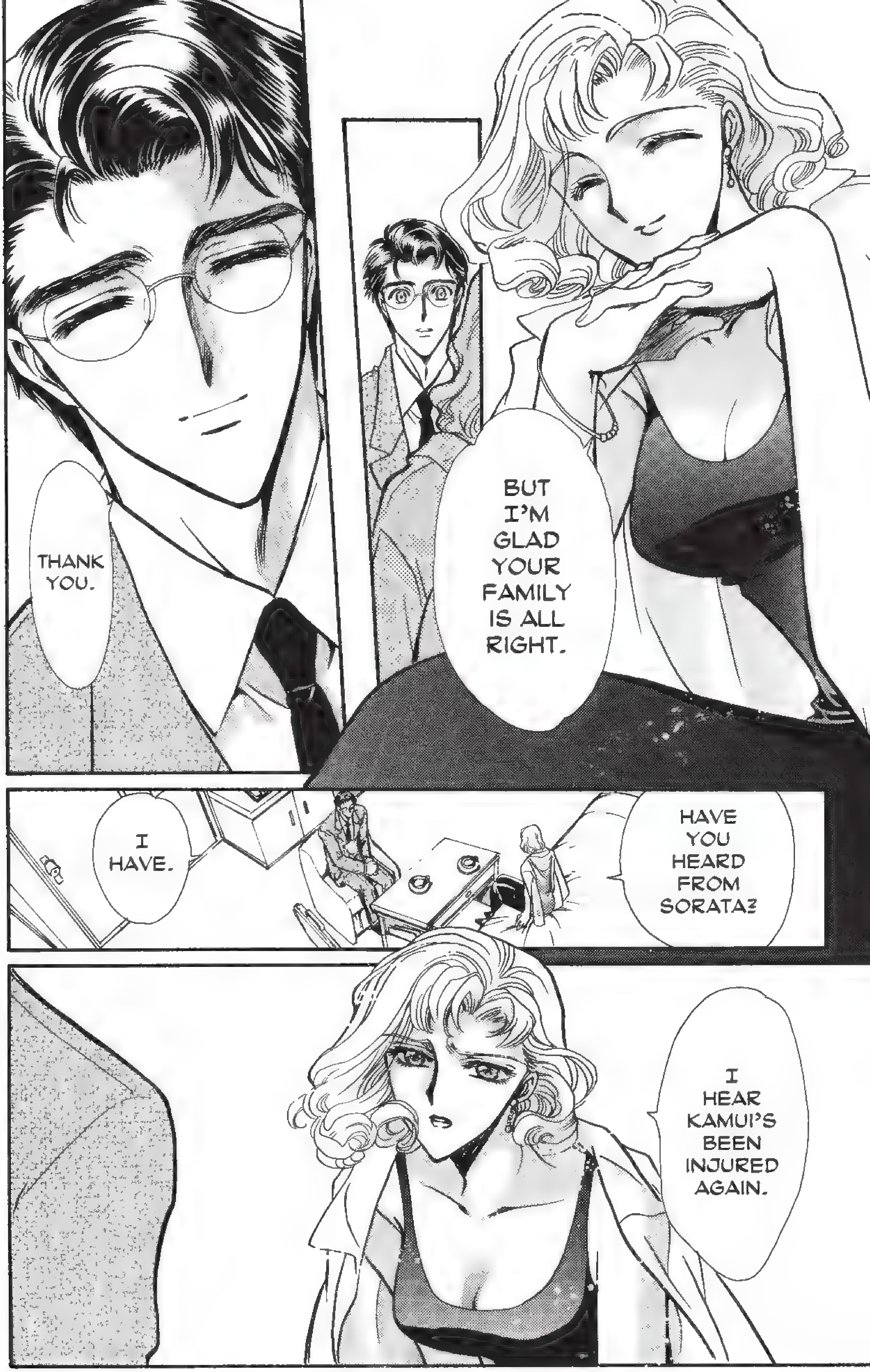

ROAAAAK
WUP WUP

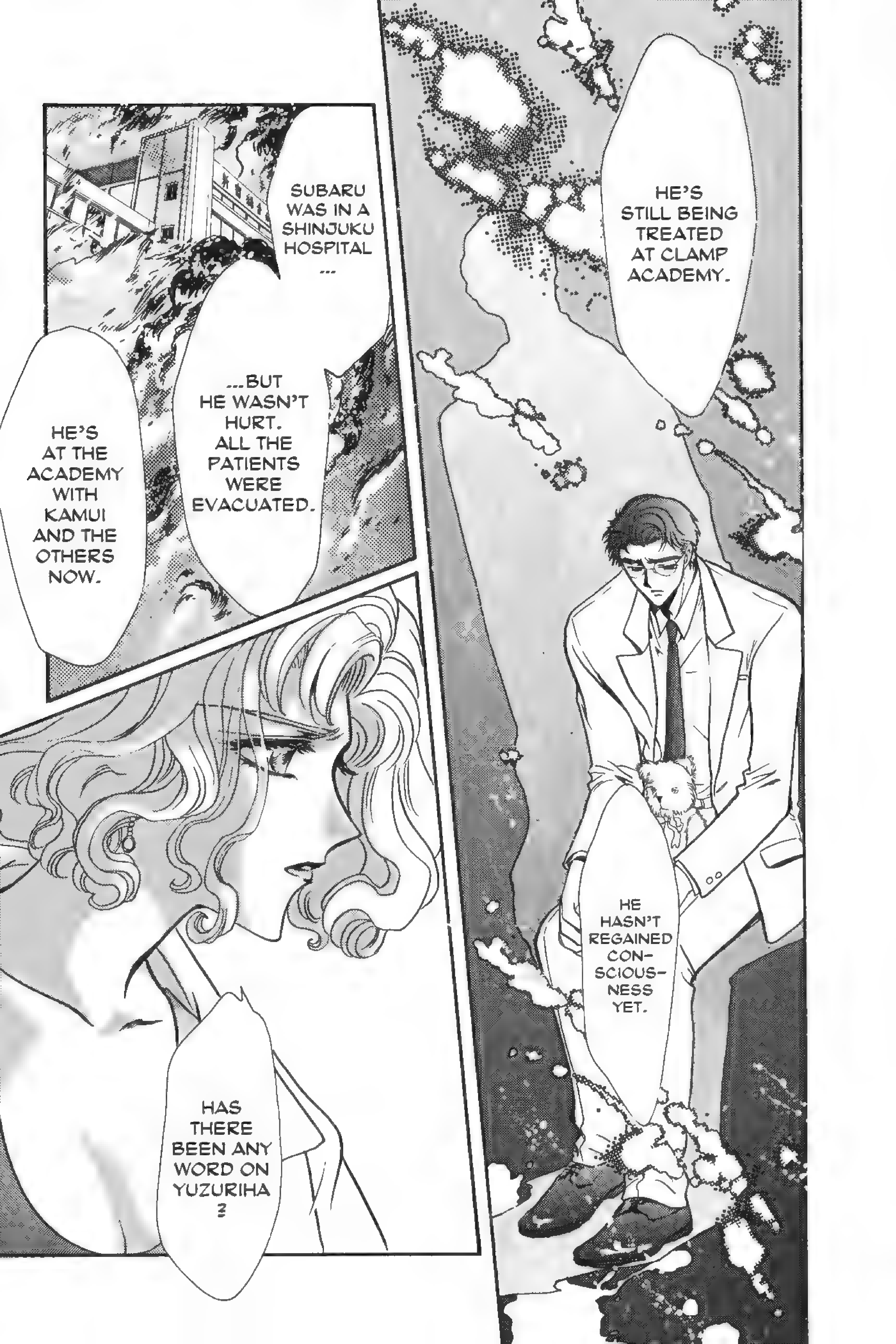

SO THAT KEKKAI...
...IS BROKEN.
BRIIING
CHAK
THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY.
IT'S FINE.
I'M SORRY I TOOK SO LONG TO GET HERE.

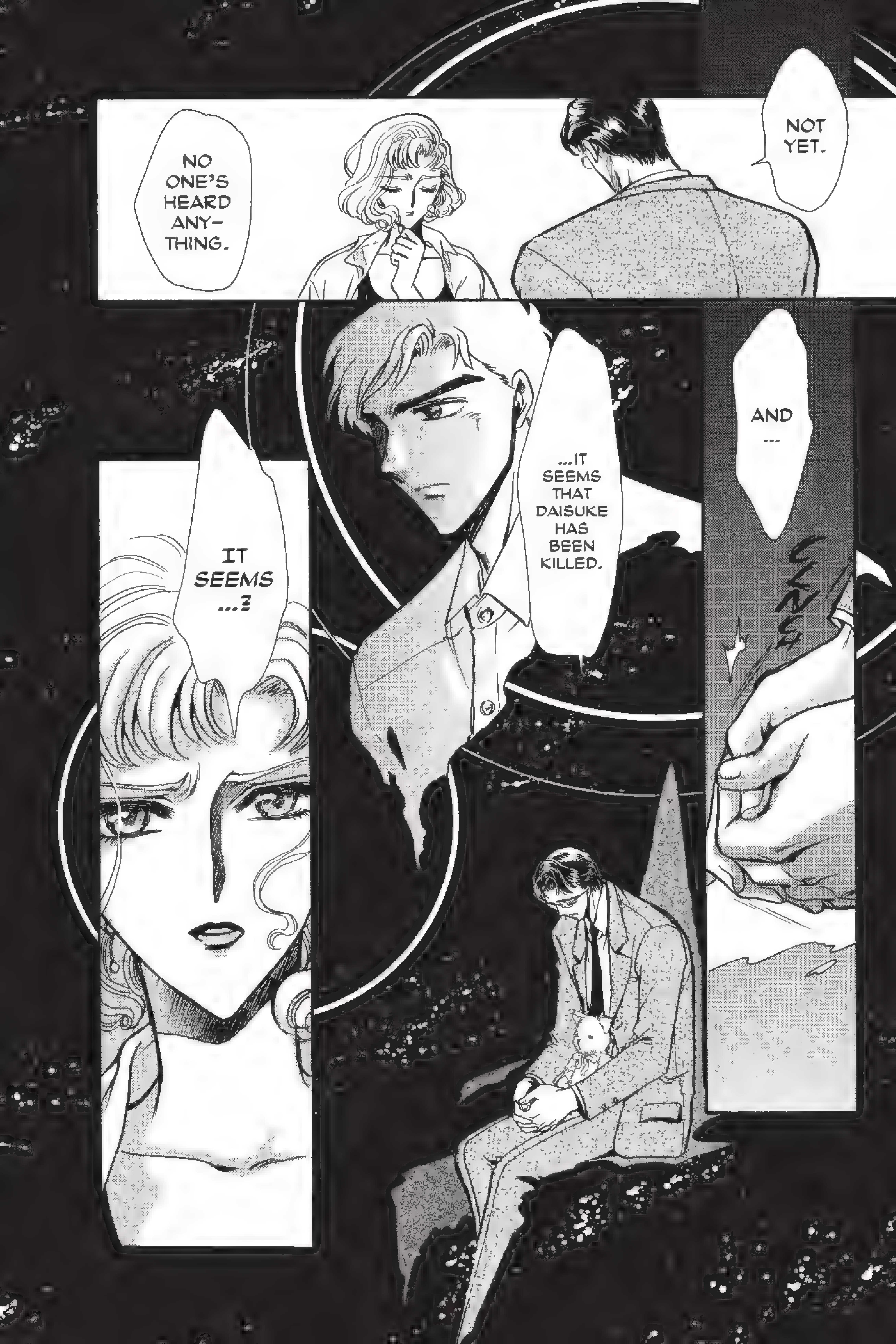

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
SHF
IS BLACK TEA ALL RIGHT?
OF COURSE.

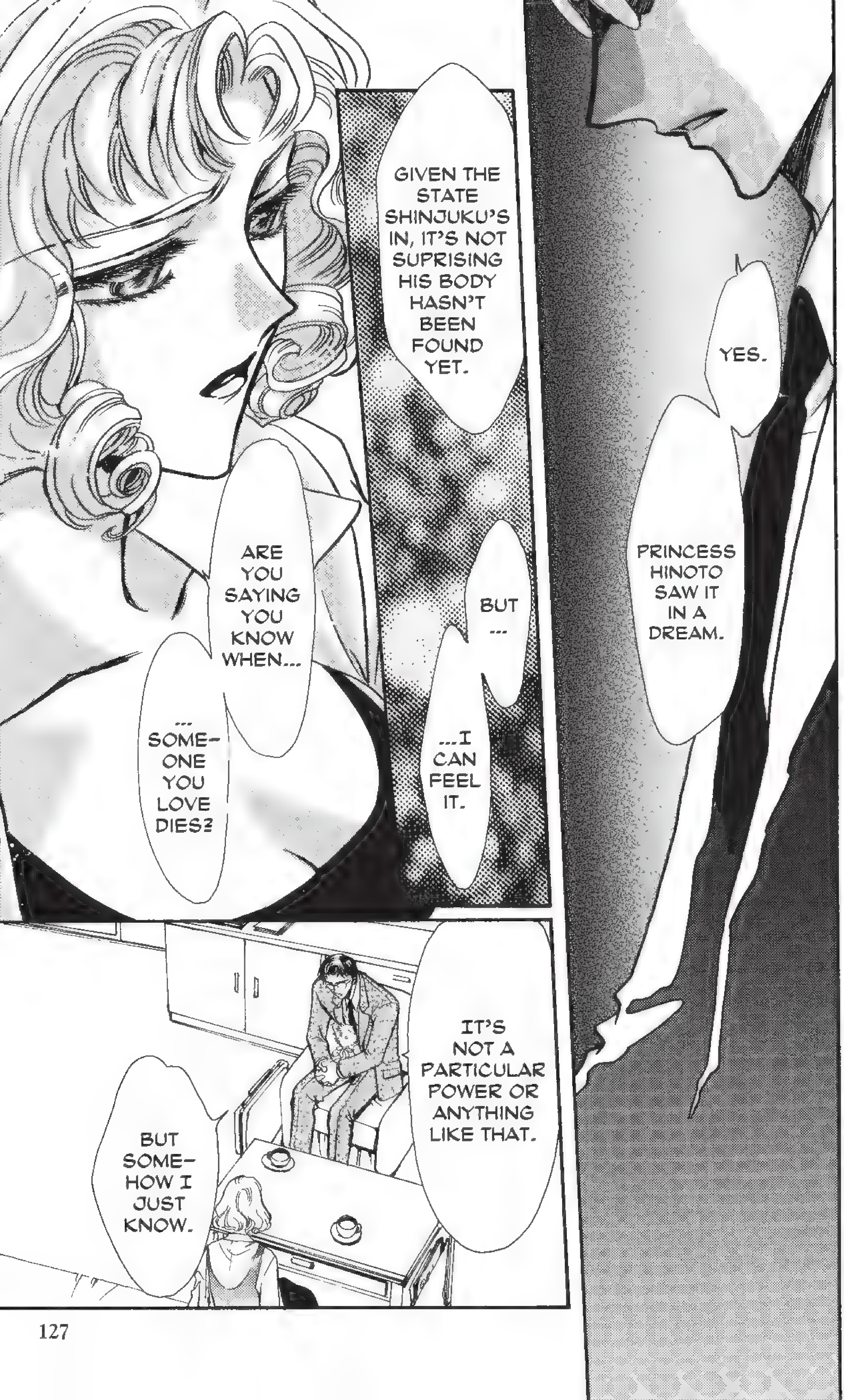

OH ...
DO YOU MIND THAT I PICKED HIM UP?
NO, IT'S FINE.
Quality
THIS IS COVERAGE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SHINJUKU?
YOU USED TO WORK IN SHINJUKU, DIDN'T YOU?
OR AT LEAST...
... WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.

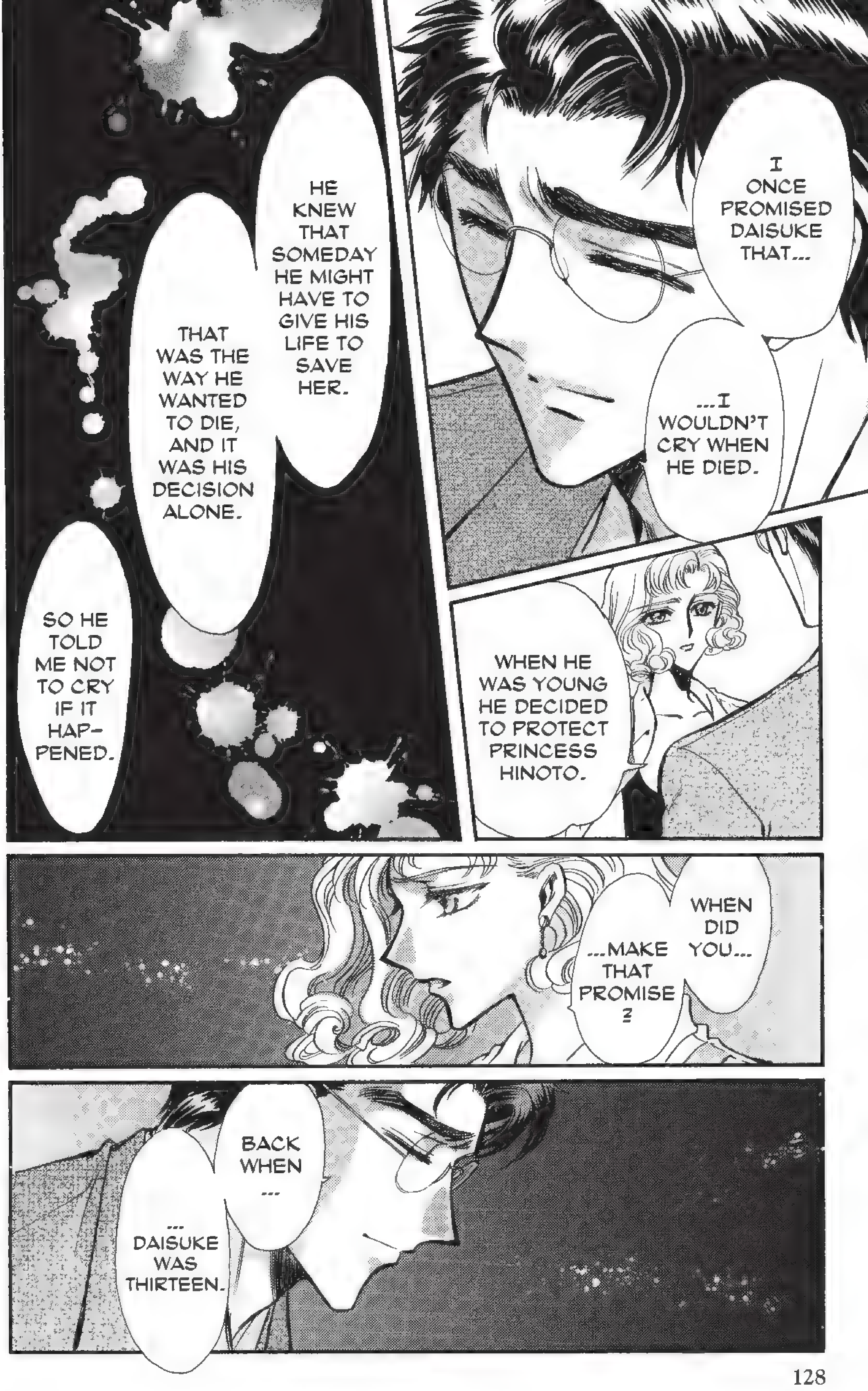

I SWITCHED TO A NEW PLACE LAST WEEK.
IT'S IN SHIBUYA, ONLY A FIVE-MINUTE WALK FROM HERE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M FINE. SOME BOOKS FELL OFF A SHELF IN THE OFFICE AND HIT ME IN THE HEAD, BUT IT WAS JUST A BUMP.
MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER ARE FINE, TOO.
"WIFE AND DAUGHTER"? YOU'RE MARRIED?
I AM!
Sigh...
THAT FIGURES.
WHAT DOES?
OH, YOU KNOW. ALL THE GOOD MEN ARE MARRIED OR GAY.
?

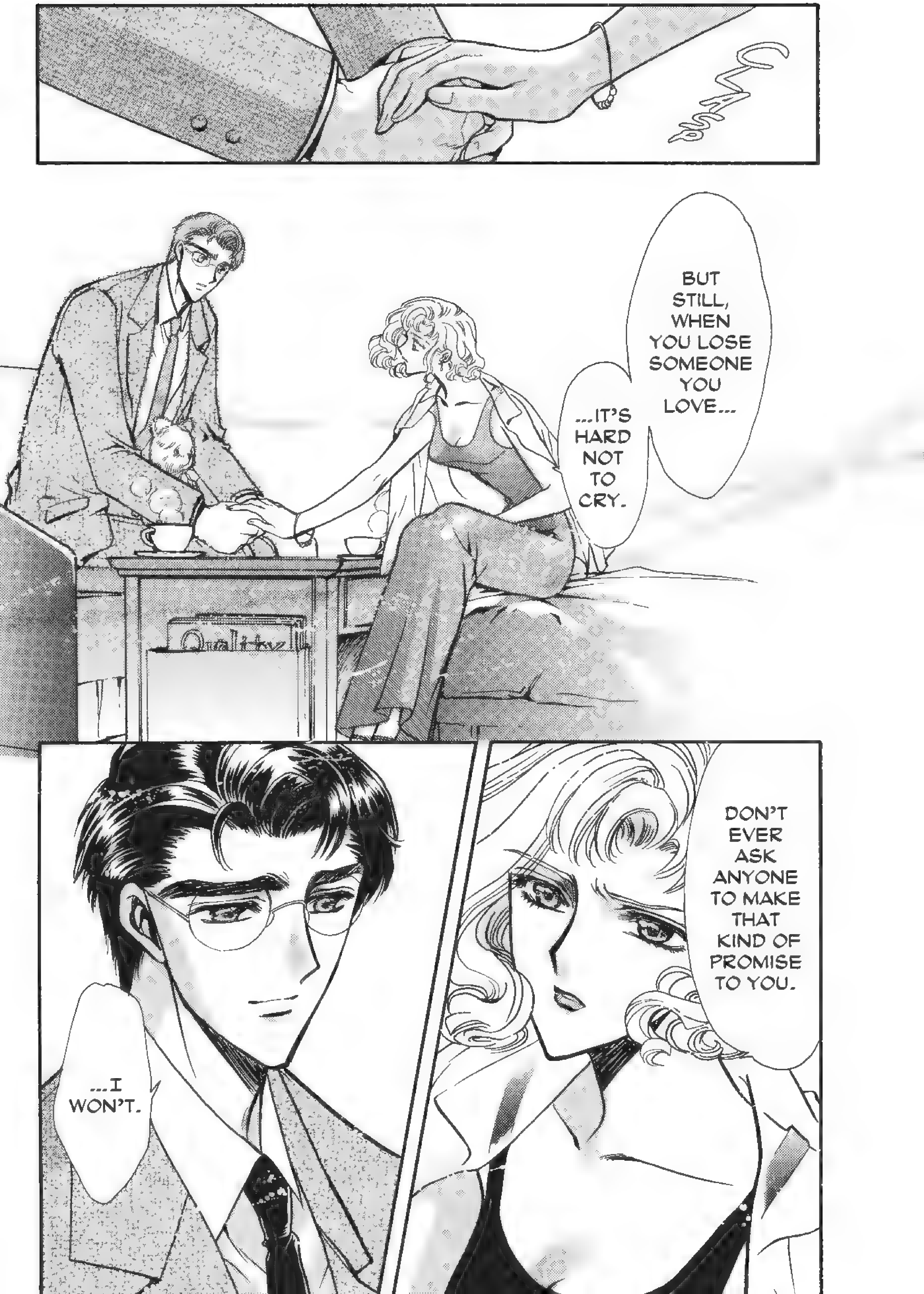

BUT I'M GLAD YOUR FAMILY IS ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU.
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM SORATA?
I HAVE.
I HEAR KAMUI'S BEEN INJURED AGAIN.

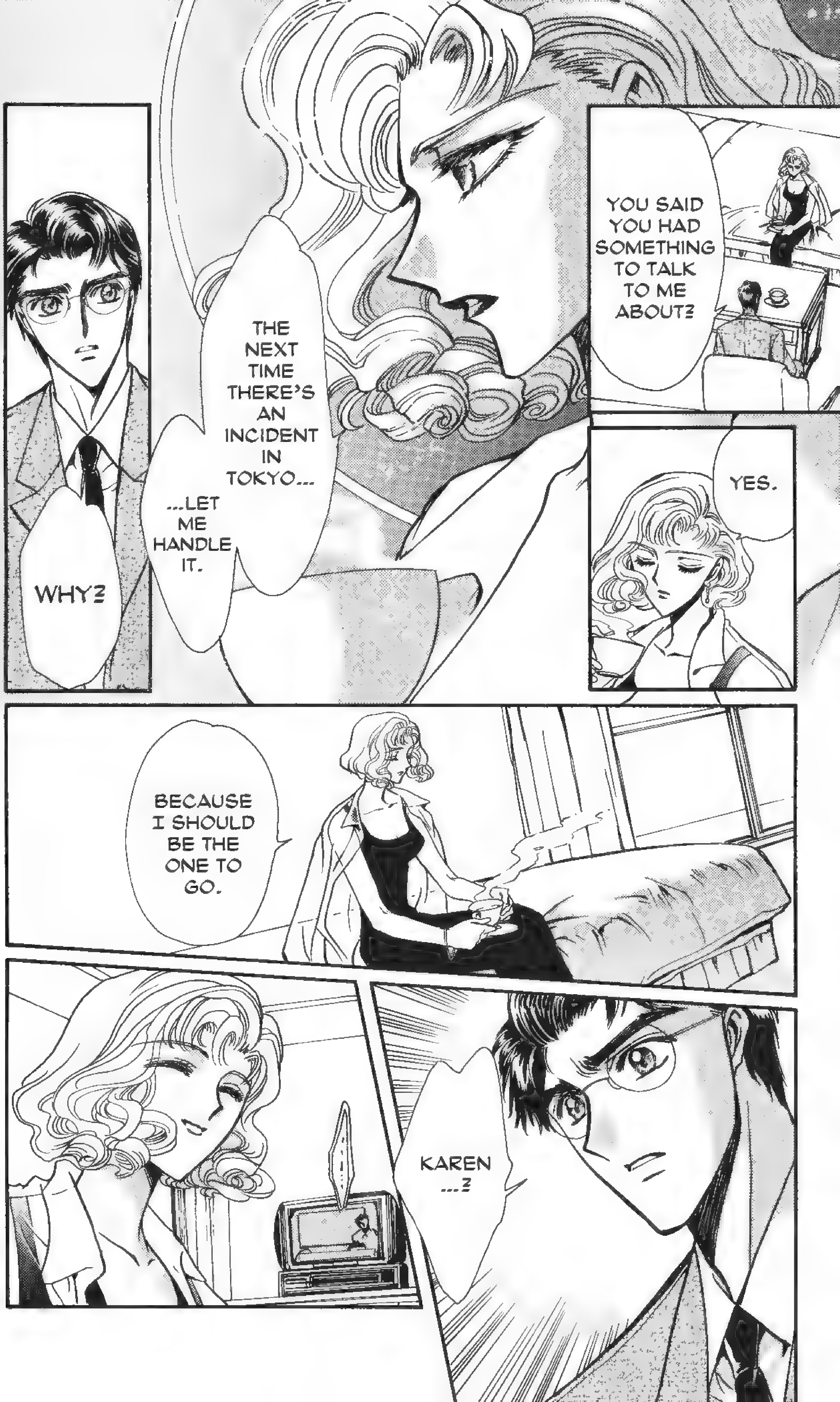

SUBARU WAS IN A SHINJUKU HOSPITAL ...
...BUT HE WASN'T HURT. ALL THE PATIENTS WERE EVACUATED.
HE'S AT THE ACADEMY WITH KAMUI AND THE OTHERS NOW.
HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD ON YUZURIHA?
HE'S STILL BEING TREATED AT CLAMP ACADEMY.
HE HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS YET.

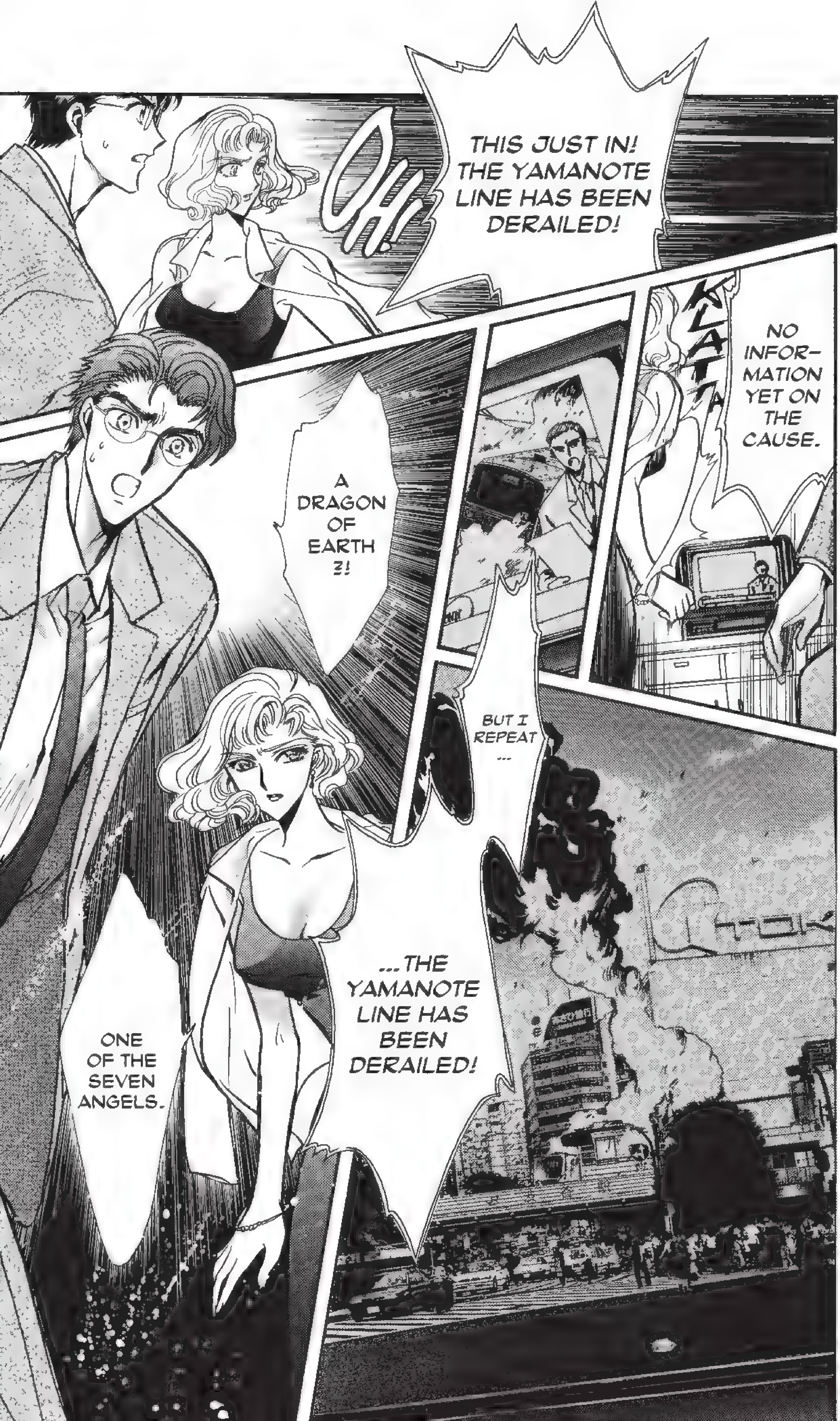

NOT YET.
NO ONE'S HEARD ANYTHING.
AND ...
...IT SEEMS THAT DAISUKE HAS BEEN KILLED.
CLENCH
IT SEEMS ...?

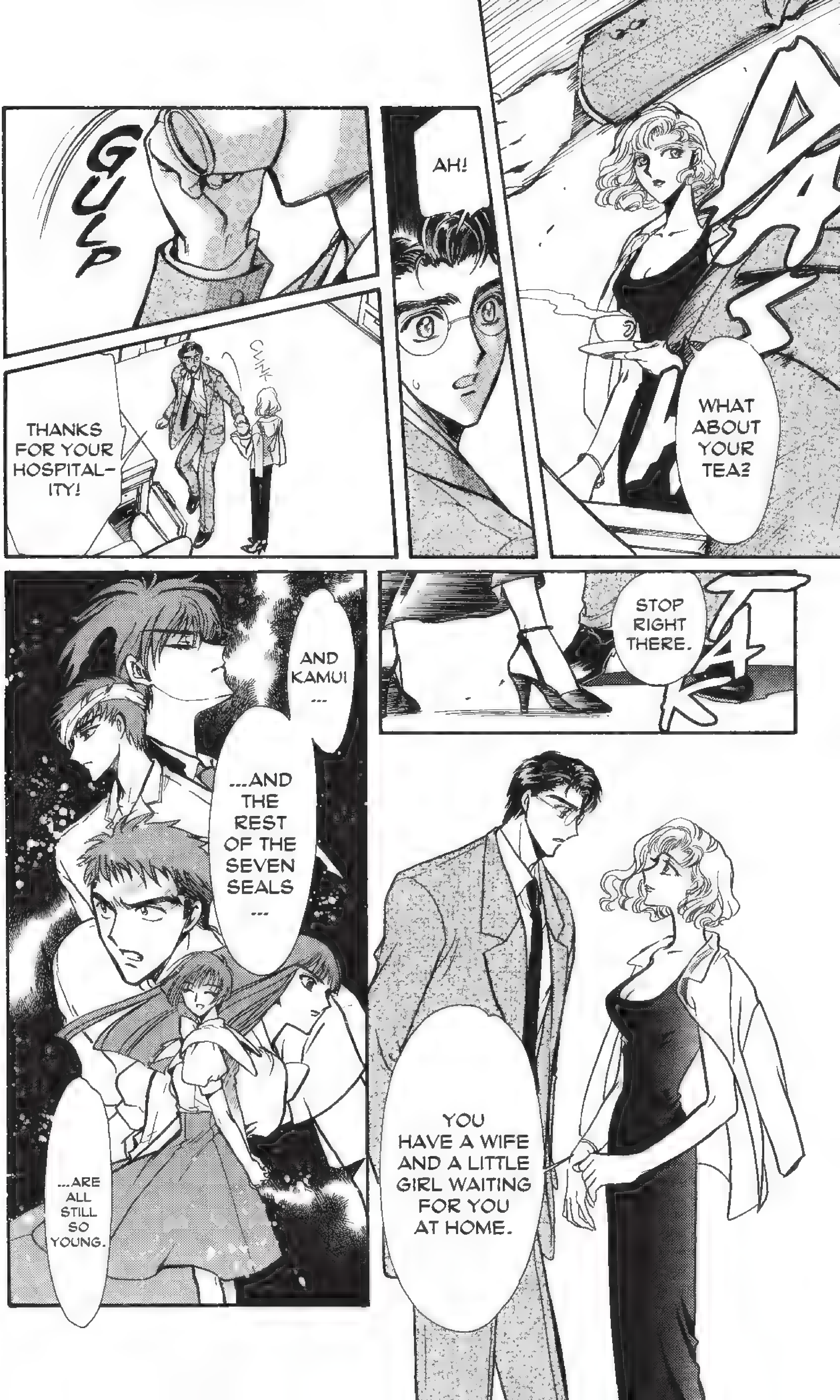

YES.
PRINCESS HINOTO SAW IT IN A DREAM.
GIVEN THE STATE SHINJUKU'S IN, IT'S NOT SUPRISING HIS BODY HASN'T BEEN FOUND YET.
BUT ...
...I CAN FEEL IT.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU KNOW WHEN...
...SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES?
IT'S NOT A PARTICULAR POWER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT SOMEHOW I JUST KNOW.

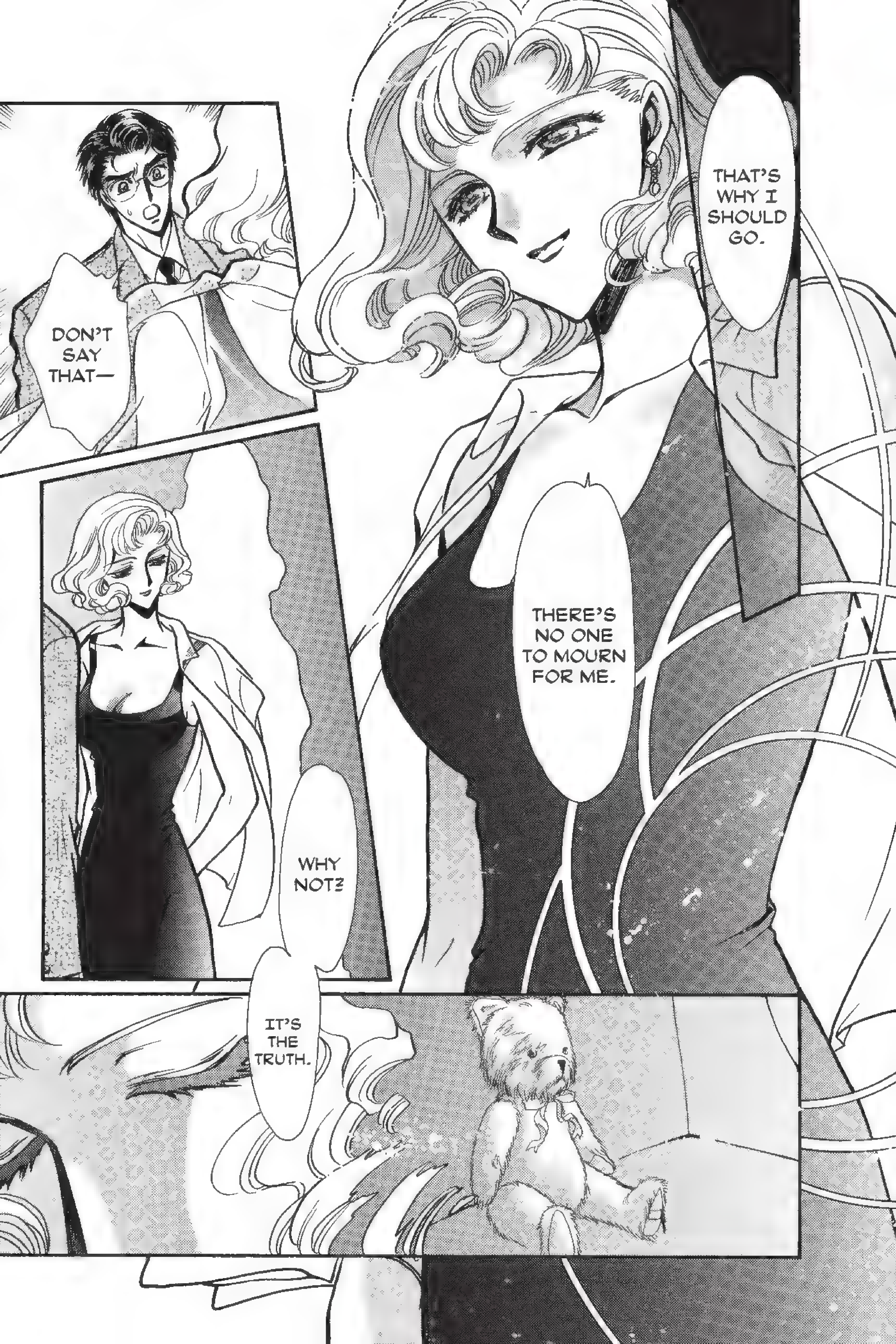

I ONCE PROMISED DAISUKE THAT...
...I WOULDN'T CRY WHEN HE DIED.
WHEN HE WAS YOUNG HE DECIDED TO PROTECT PRINCESS HINOTO.
HE KNEW THAT SOMEDAY HE MIGHT HAVE TO GIVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE HER.
THAT WAS THE WAY HE WANTED TO DIE, AND IT WAS HIS DECISION ALONE.
SO HE TOLD ME NOT TO CRY IF IT HAPPENED.
WHEN DID YOU...
...MAKE THAT PROMISE?
BACK WHEN...
...DAISUKE WAS THIRTEEN.

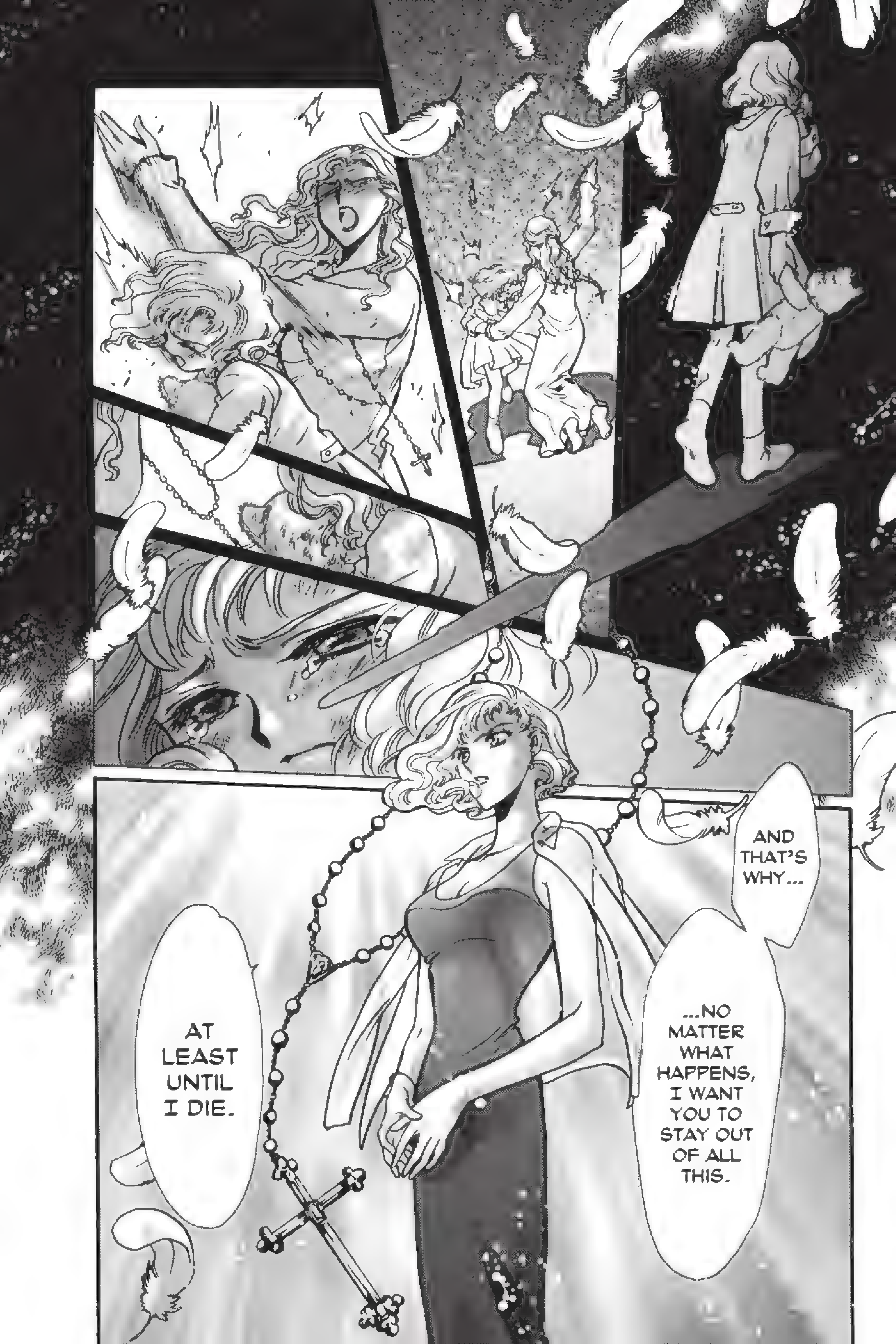

Clasp
BUT STILL, WHEN YOU LOSE SOMEONE YOU LOVE...
...IT'S HARD NOT TO CRY.
DON'T EVER ASK ANYONE TO MAKE THAT KIND OF PROMISE TO YOU.
...I WON'T.

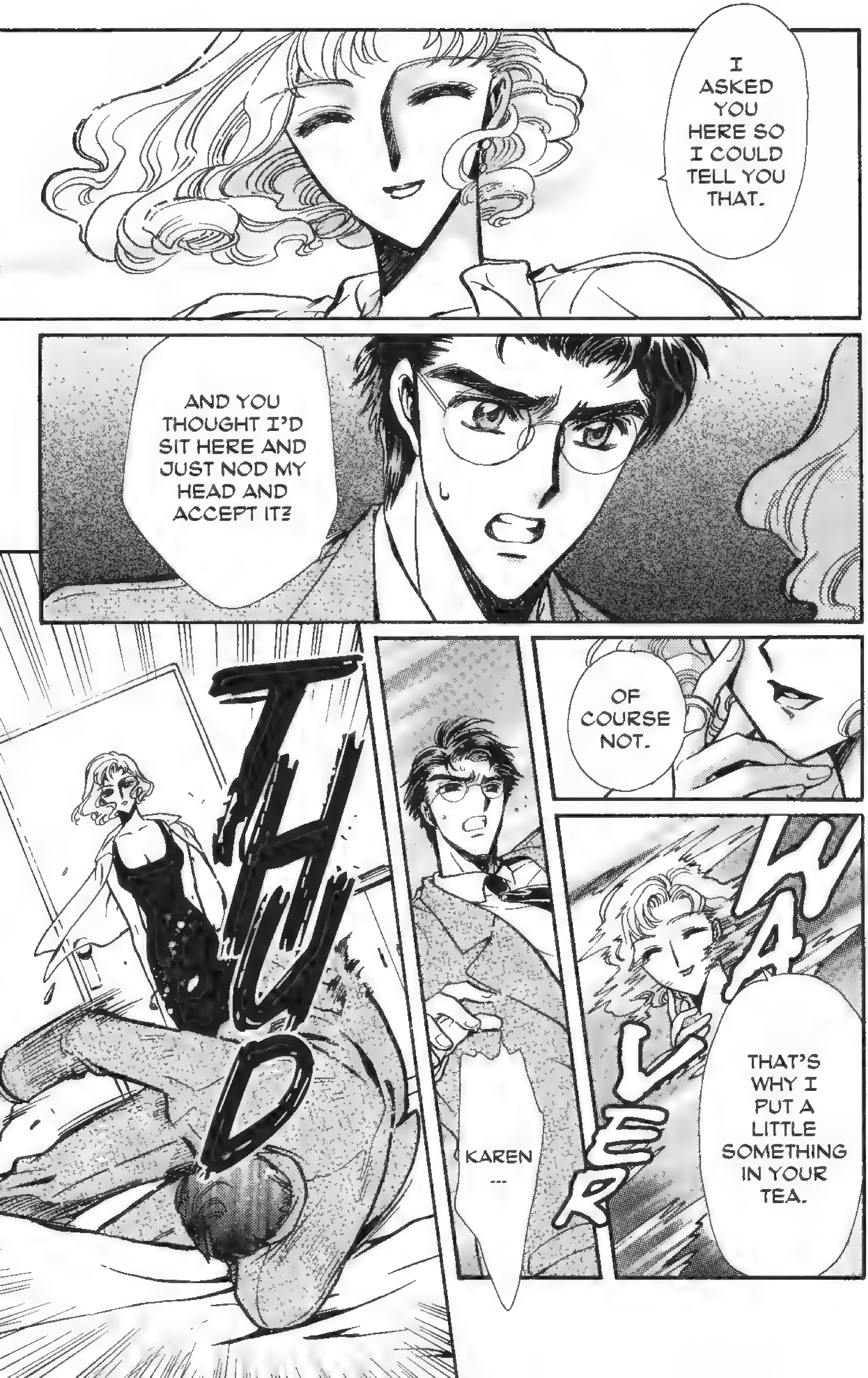

YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
YES.
THE NEXT TIME THERE'S AN INCIDENT IN TOKYO...
...LET ME HANDLE IT.
WHY?
BECAUSE I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GO.
KAREN...?
...

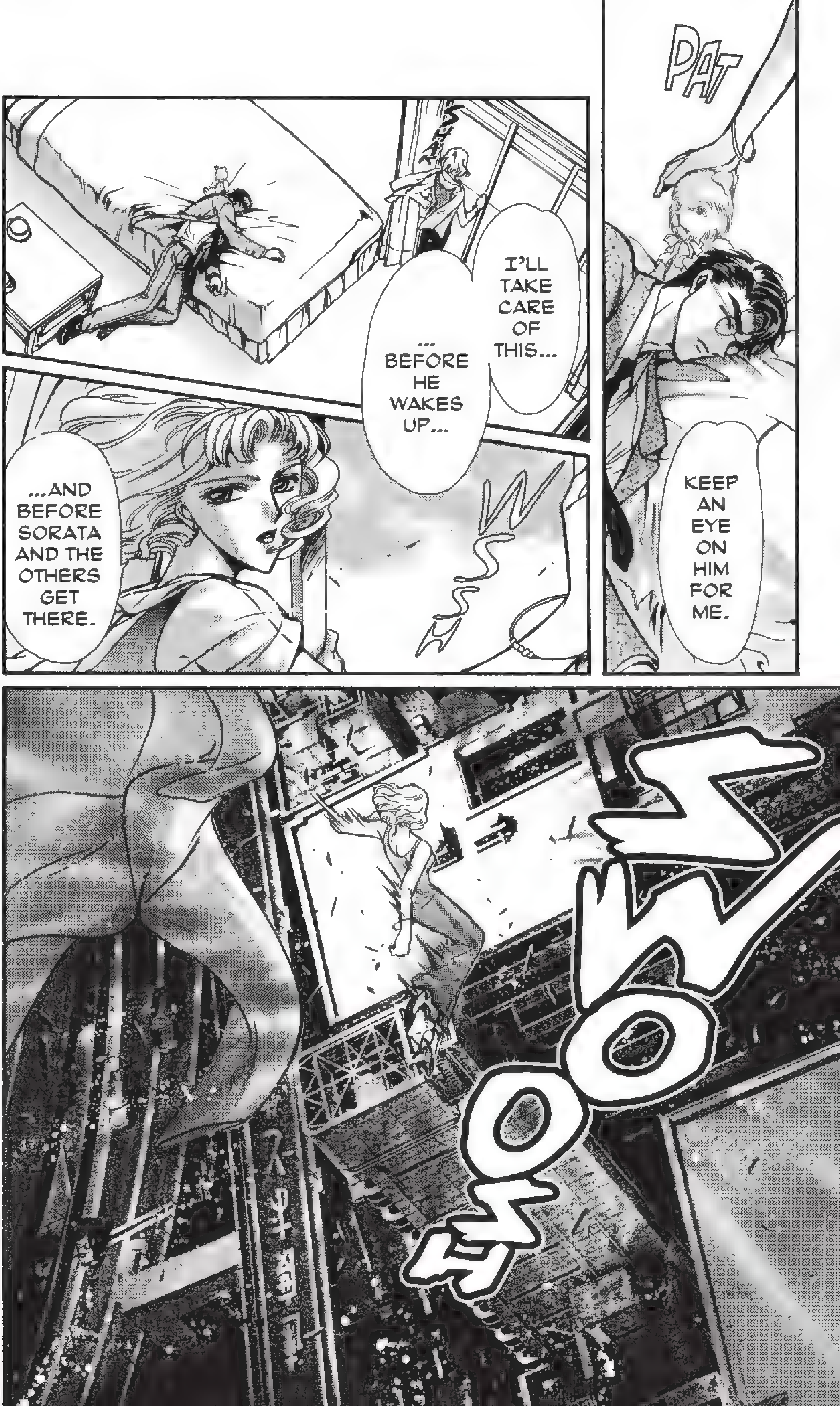

THIS JUST IN! THE YAMANOTE LINE HAS BEEN DERAILED!
OH!
KLATA
NO INFORMATION YET ON THE CAUSE.
BUT I REPEAT ...
...THE YAMANOTE LINE HAS BEEN DERAILED!
A DRAGON OF EARTH ?!
ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.

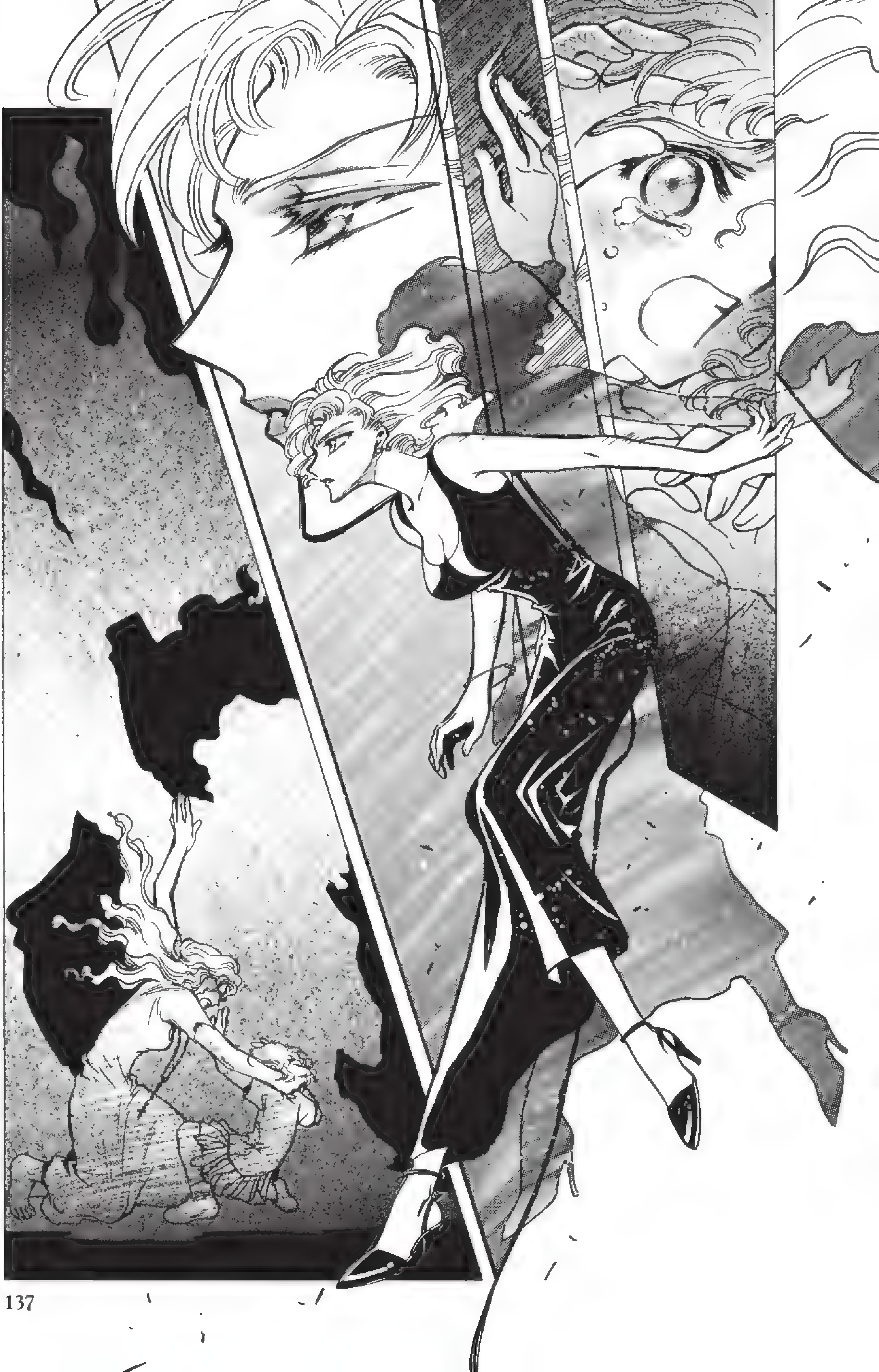

WHAT ABOUT YOUR TEA?
AH!
GULP
THANKS FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY!
CLINK
STOP RIGHT THERE.
YOU HAVE A WIFE AND A LITTLE GIRL WAITING FOR YOU AT HOME.
AND KAMUI ...
...AND THE REST OF THE SEVEN SEALS ...
...ARE ALL STILL SO YOUNG.

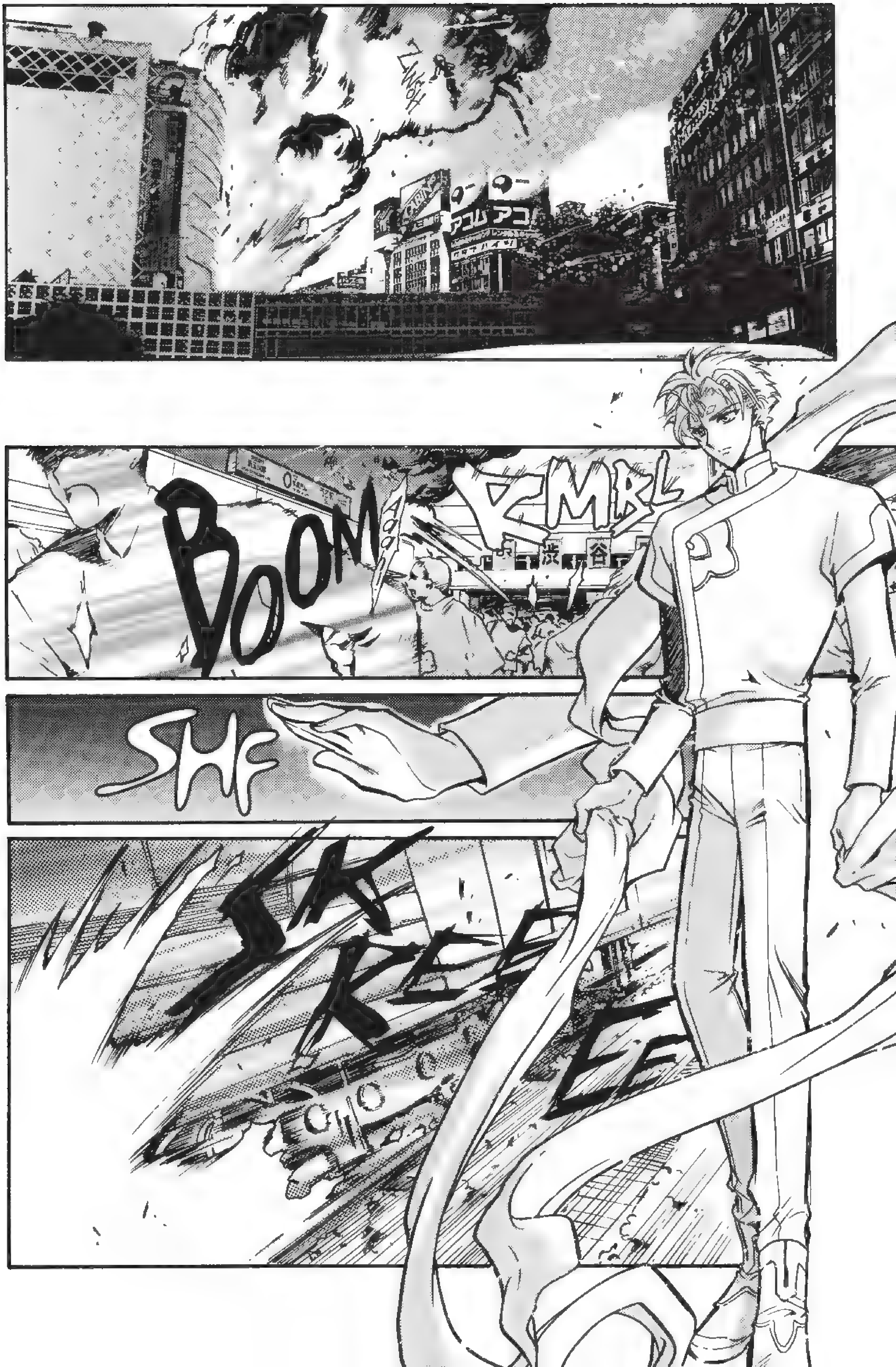

THAT'S WHY I SHOULD GO.
DON'T SAY THAT—
THERE'S NO ONE TO MOURN FOR ME.
WHY NOT?
IT'S THE TRUTH.

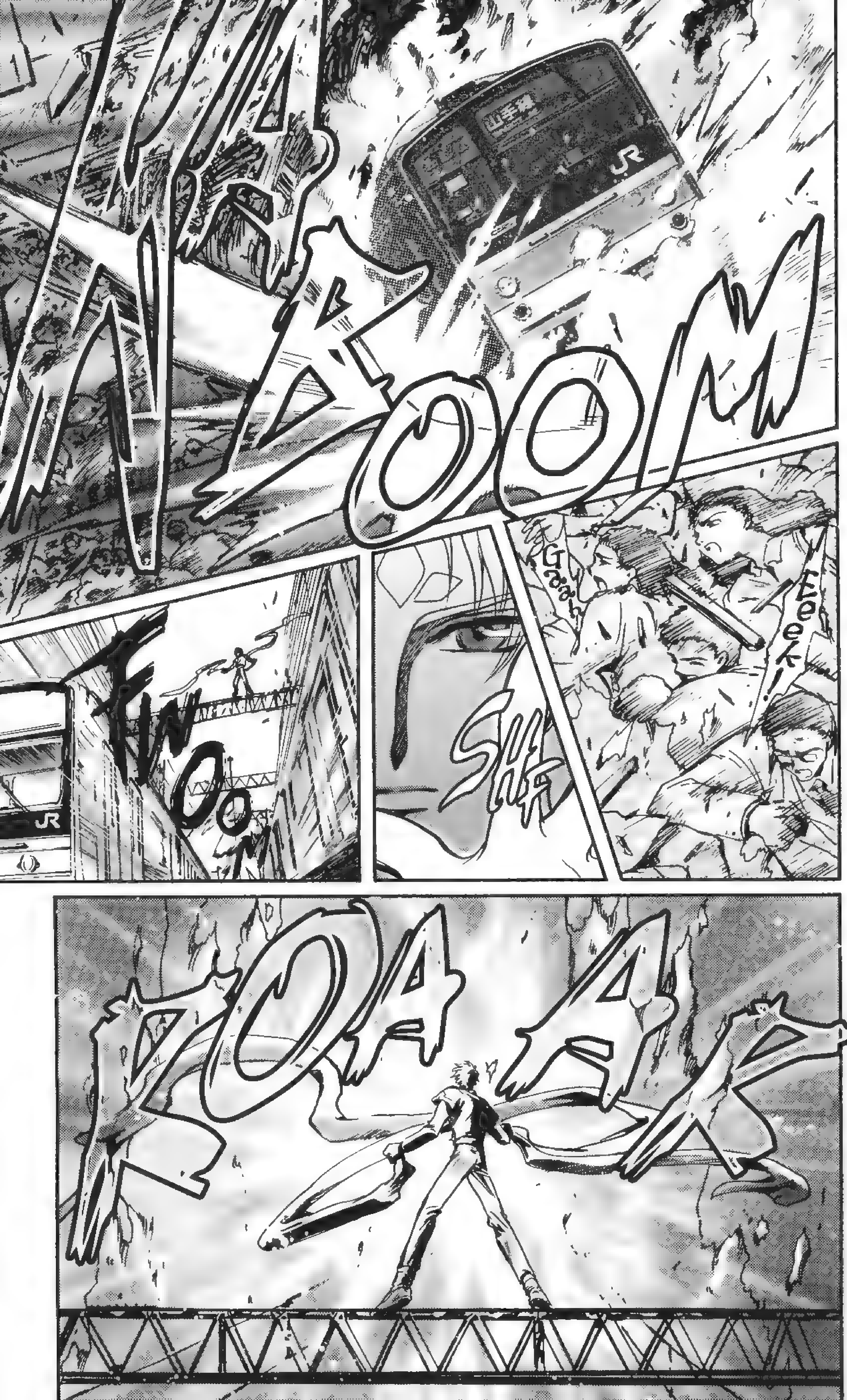

AND THAT'S WHY...
...NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WANT YOU TO STAY OUT OF ALL THIS.
AT LEAST UNTIL I DIE.

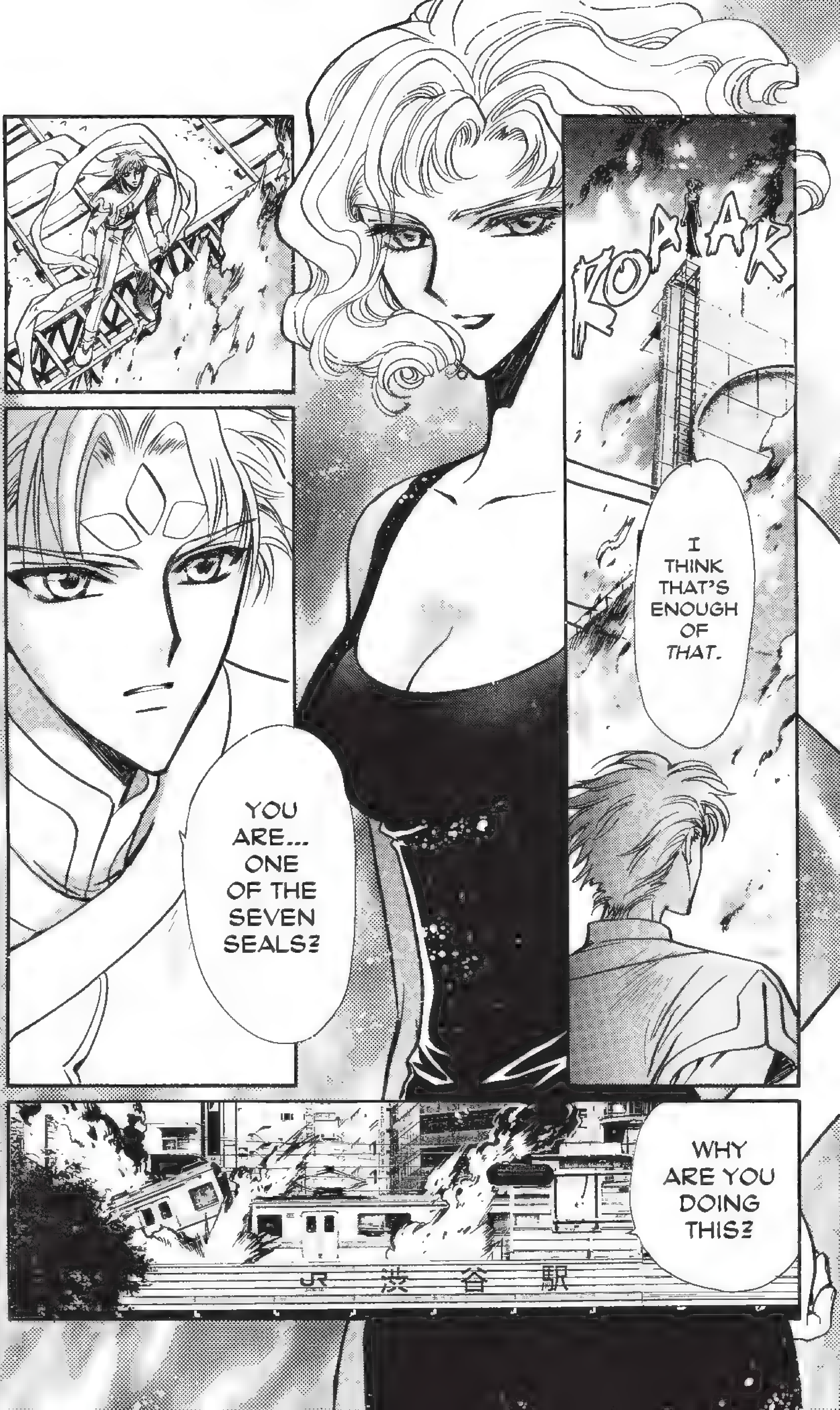

I ASKED YOU HERE SO I COULD TELL YOU THAT.
AND YOU THOUGHT I'D SIT HERE AND JUST NOD MY HEAD AND ACCEPT IT?
OF COURSE NOT.
WAVER
THAT'S WHY I PUT A LITTLE SOMETHING IN YOUR TEA.
KAREN ---
THUD

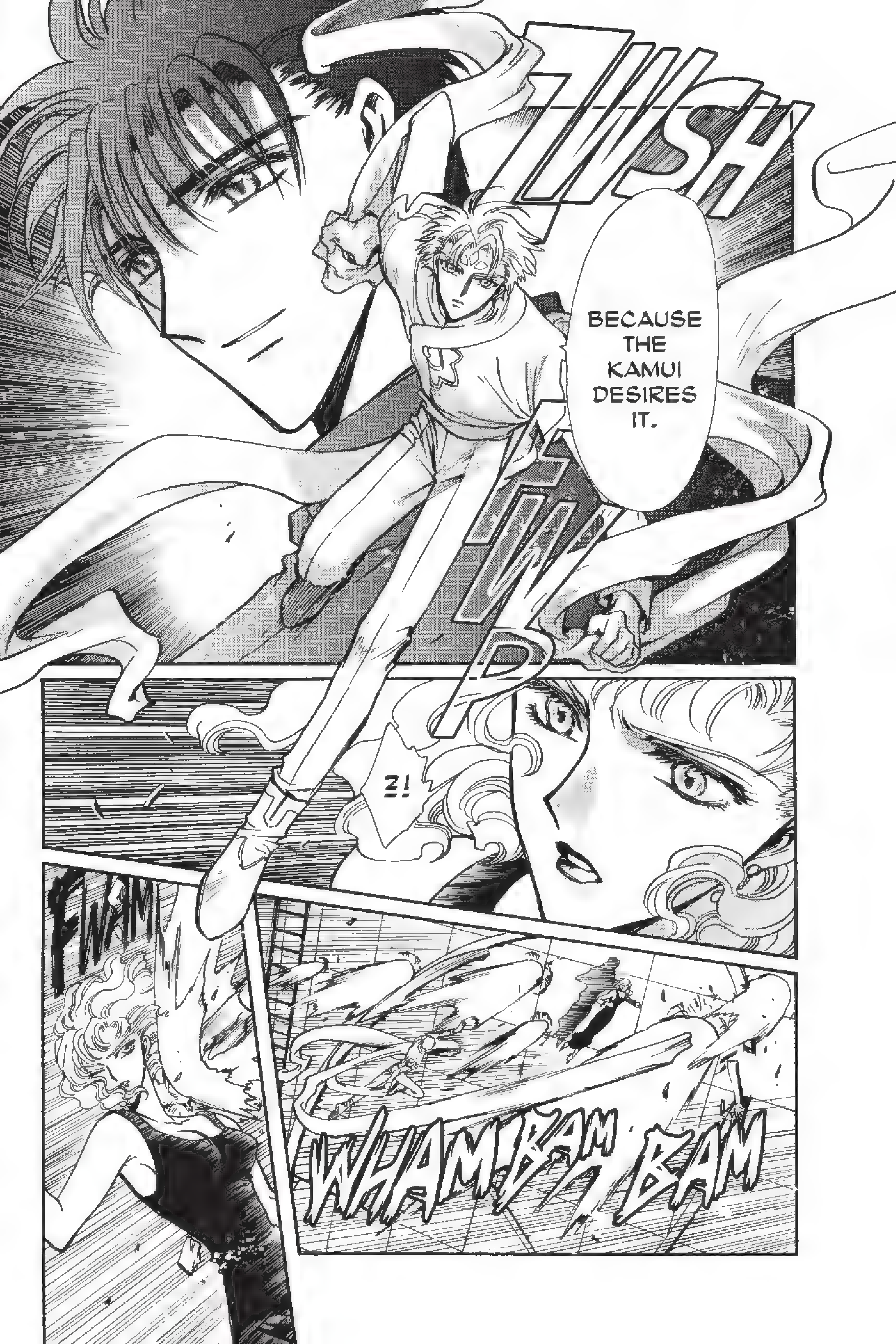

PAT
KEEP AN EYE ON HIM FOR ME.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS...
...BEFORE HE WAKES UP...
...AND BEFORE SORATA AND THE OTHERS GET THERE.
WSSH
ZOOM

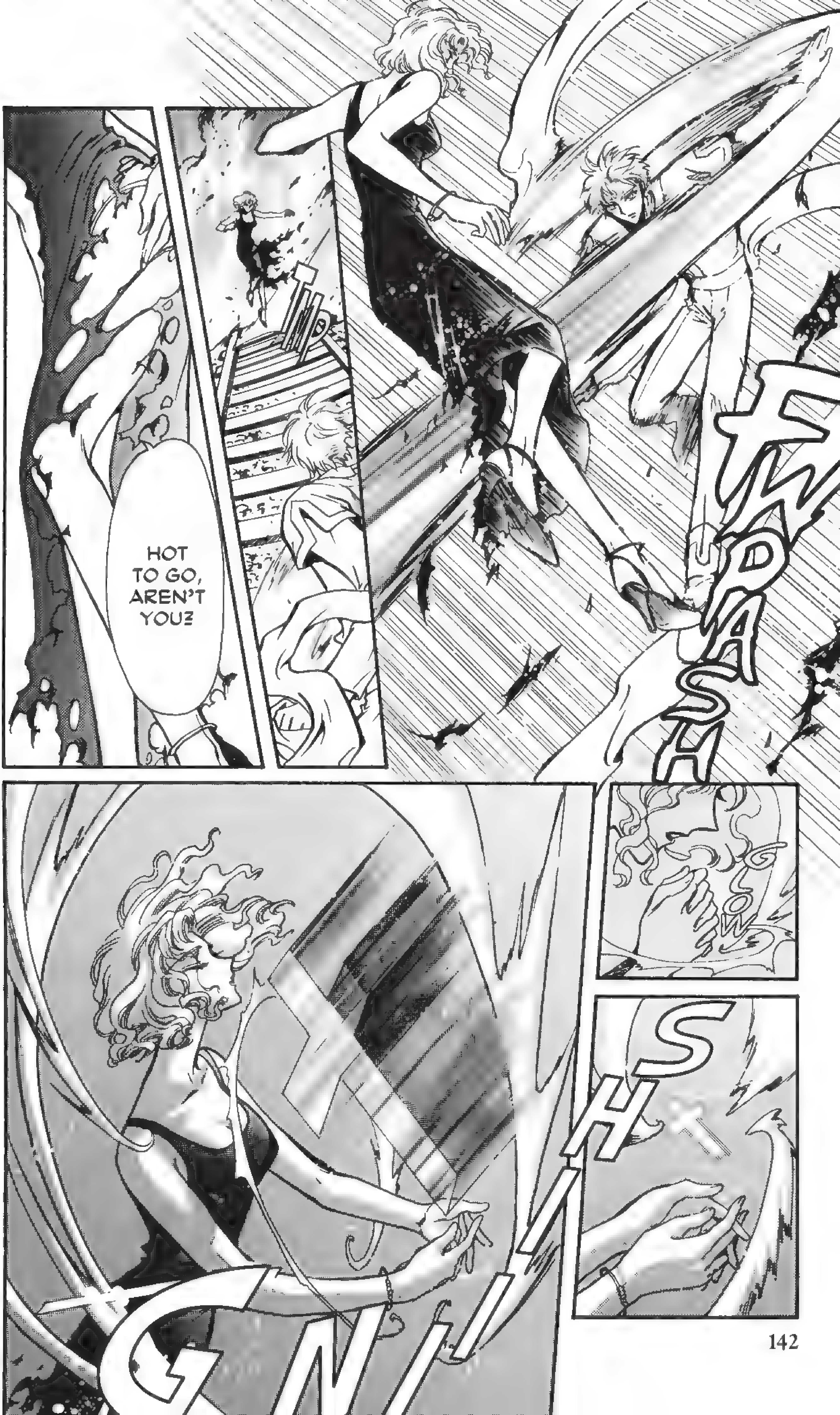


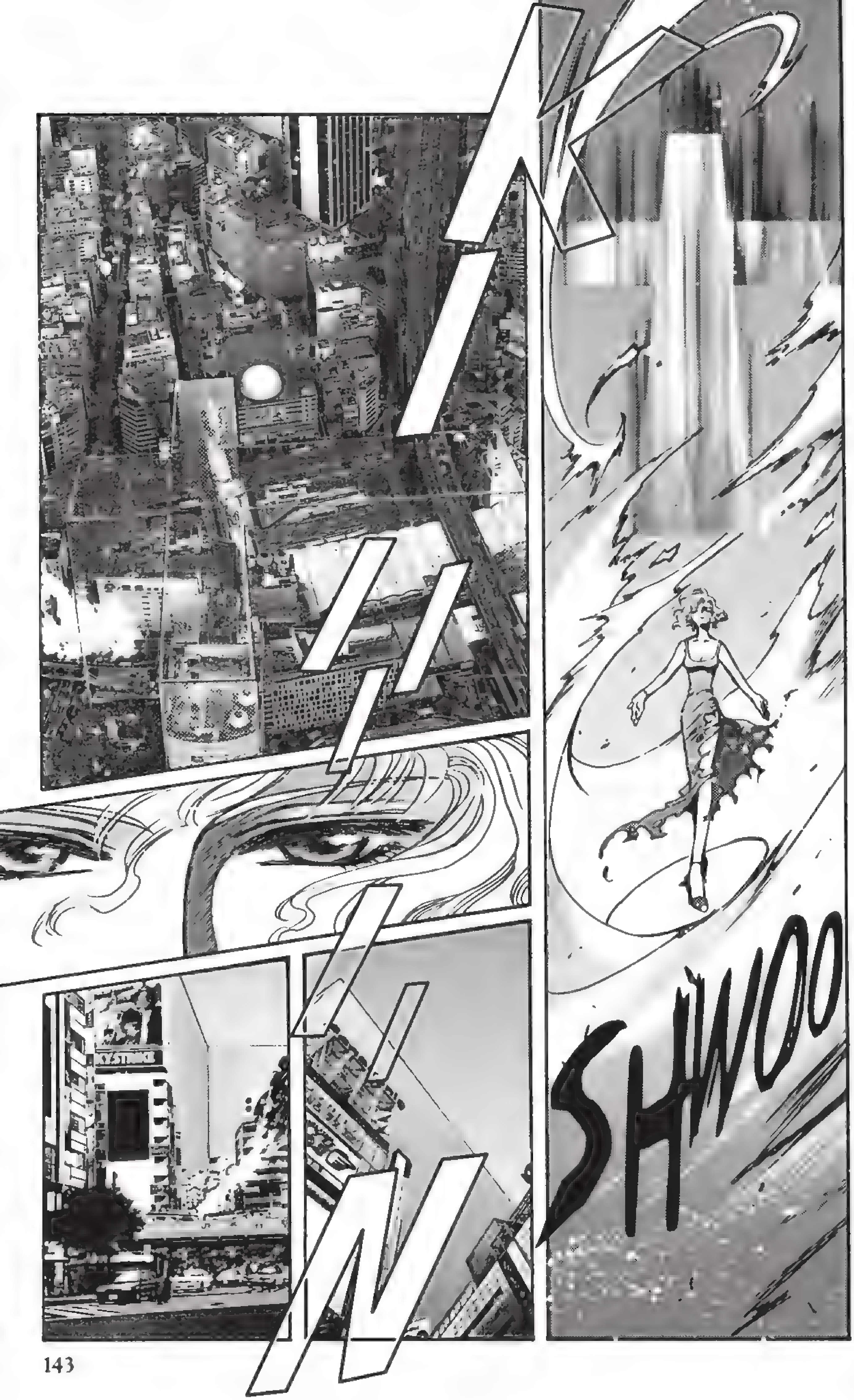

ZWOOH
アコム
アコム
RMBL
渋谷
AAA!
BOOM
SHF
SKREEE

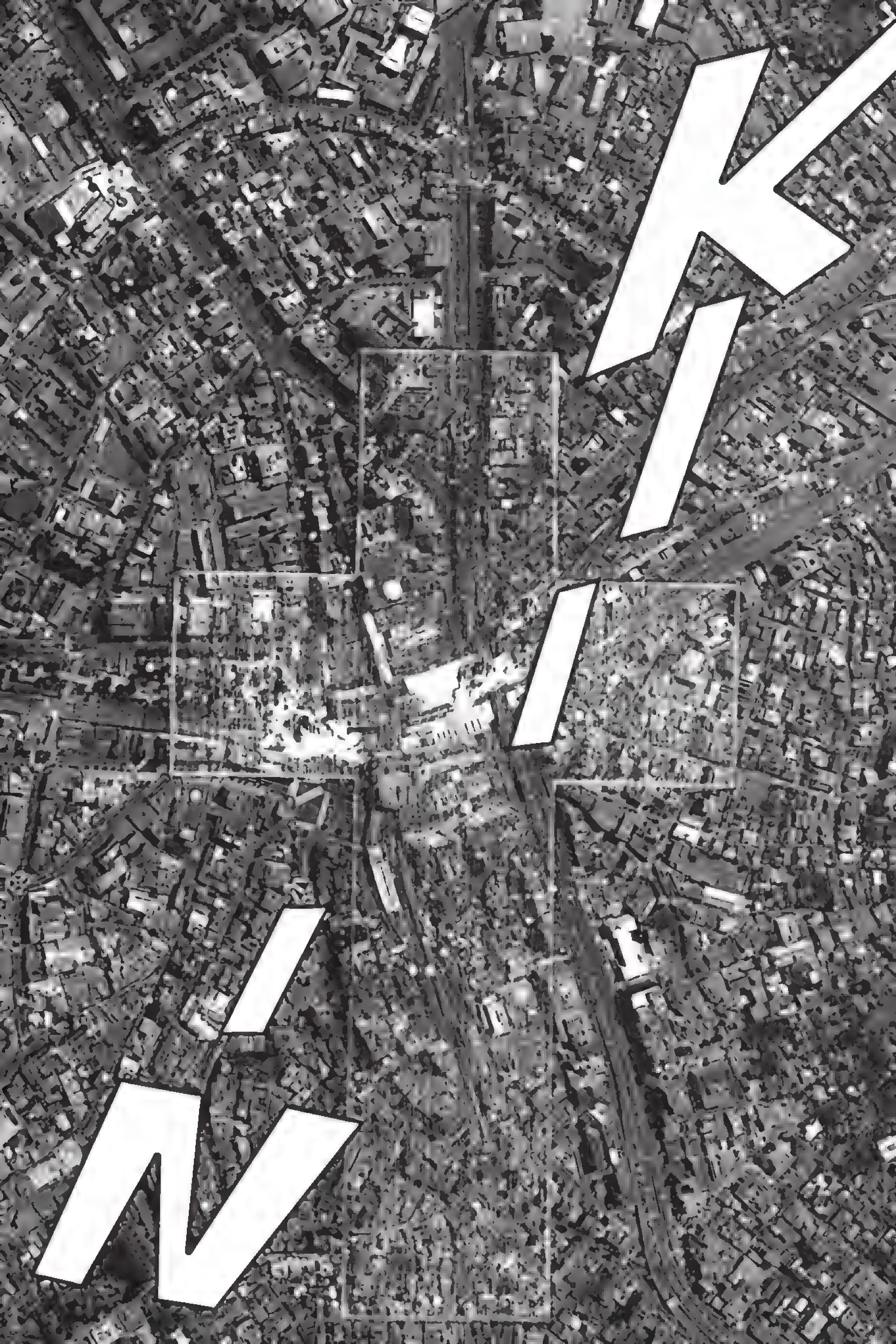

山手線
JR
BOOM
Eeek!!
Gaah
Shf
FwOom
ZOAAK

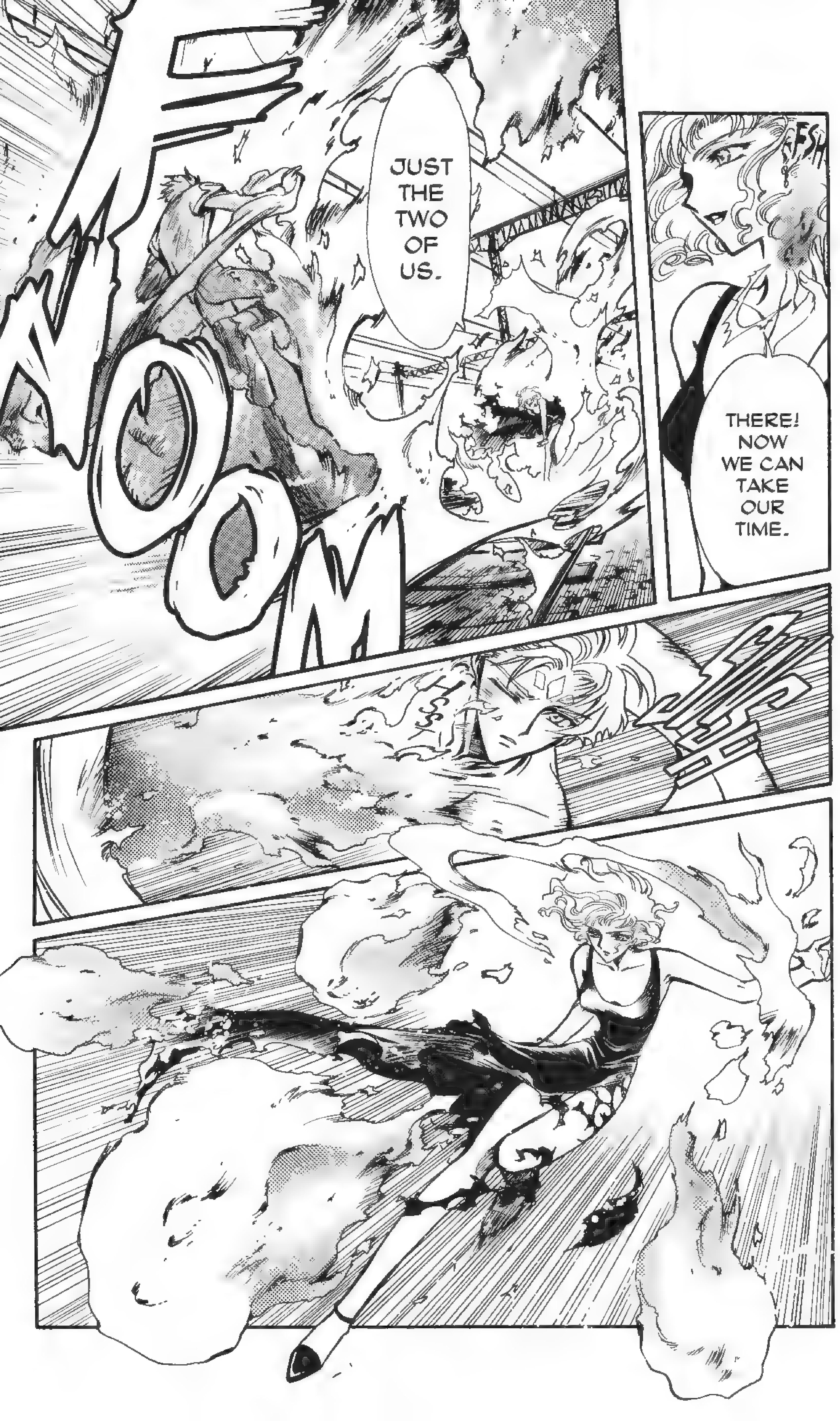

ROAAR
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH OF *THAT*.
YOU ARE... ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
JR 渋谷駅

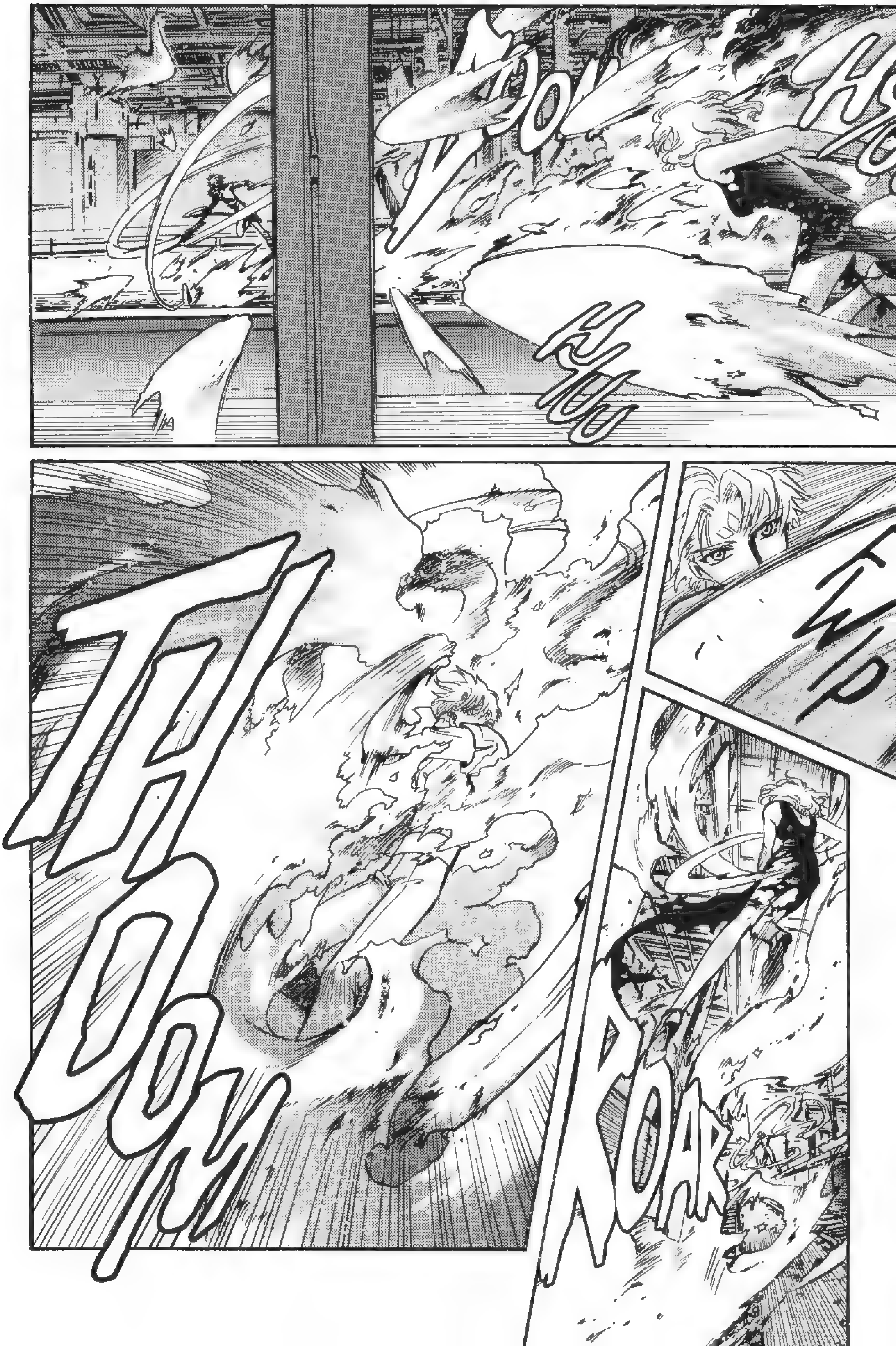

ZWISH
BECAUSE THE KAMUI DESIRES IT.
FWP
?!
FWAM
WHAM BAM BAM

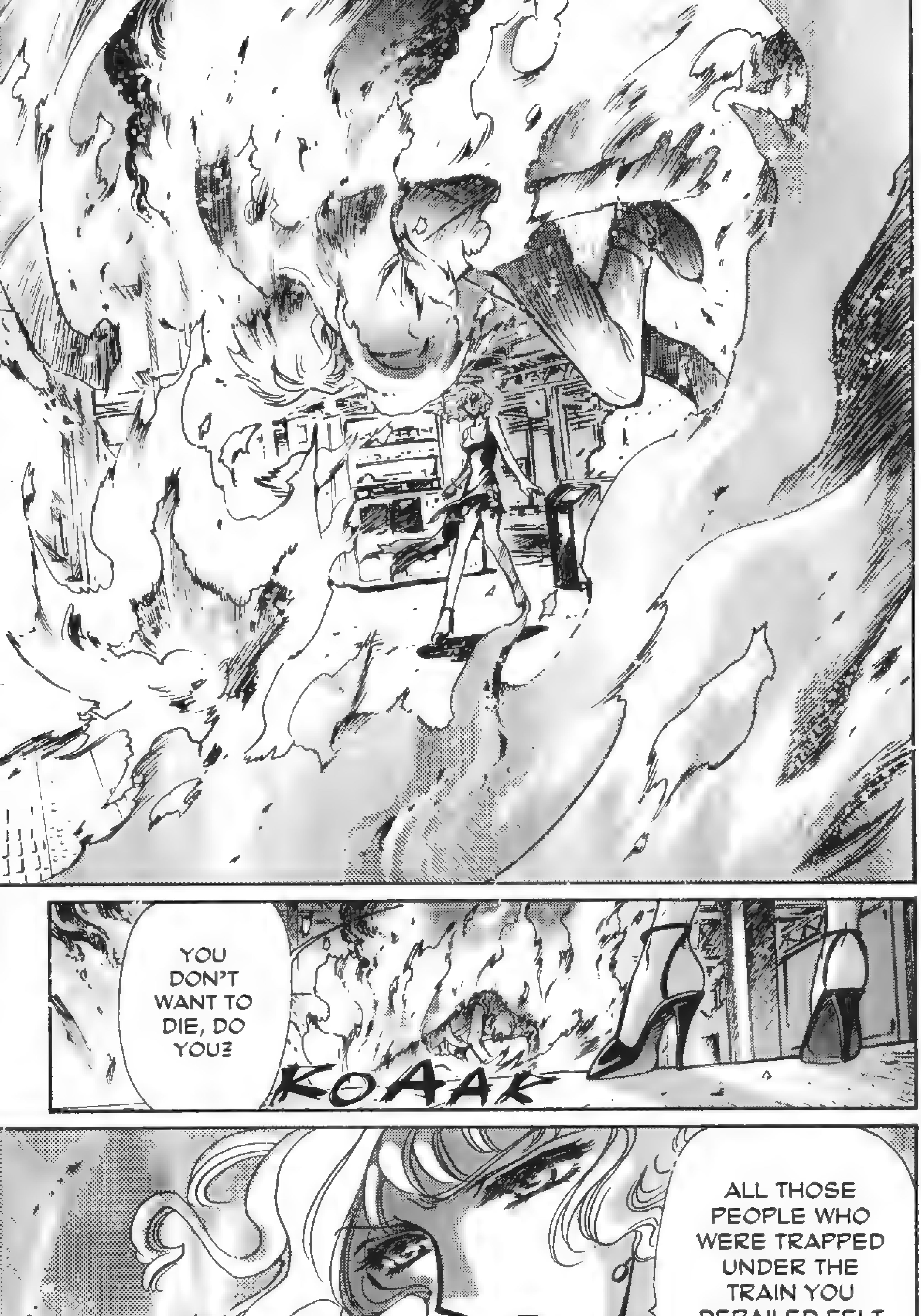

FWUDASHA
HOT TO GO, AREN'T YOU?
GLOW
SHIING

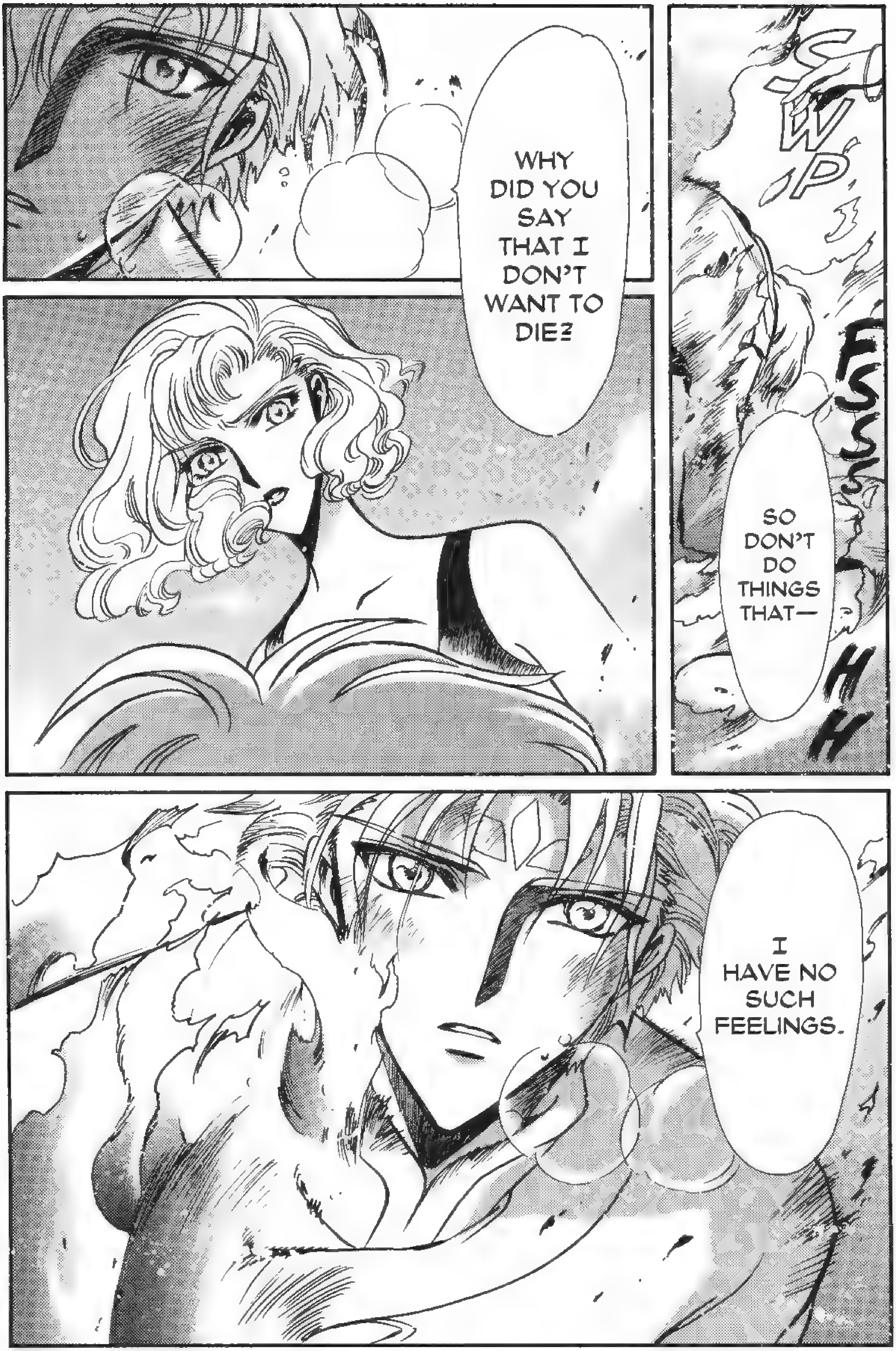

KIIIIIN
SHWOO
KY STRIKE

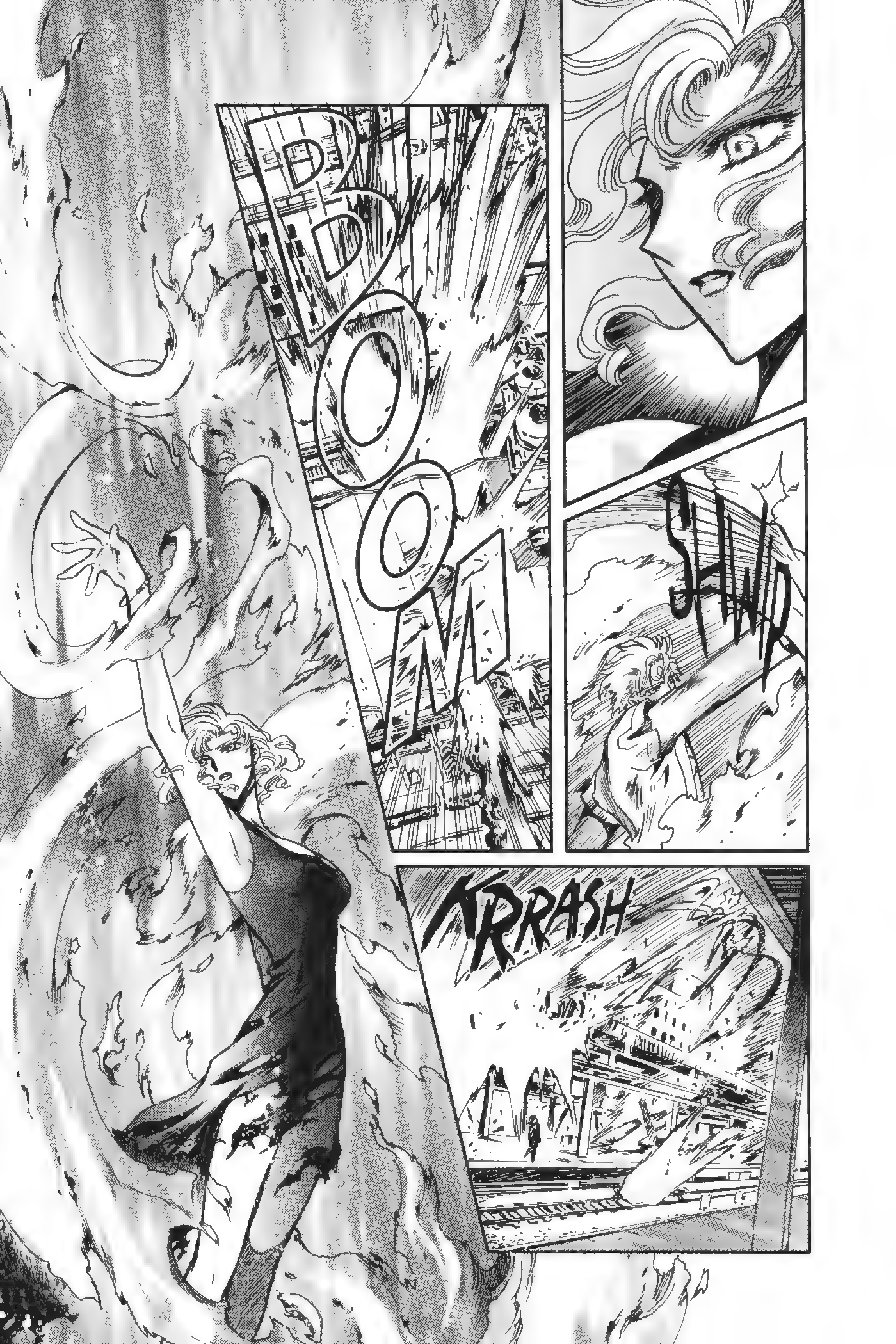


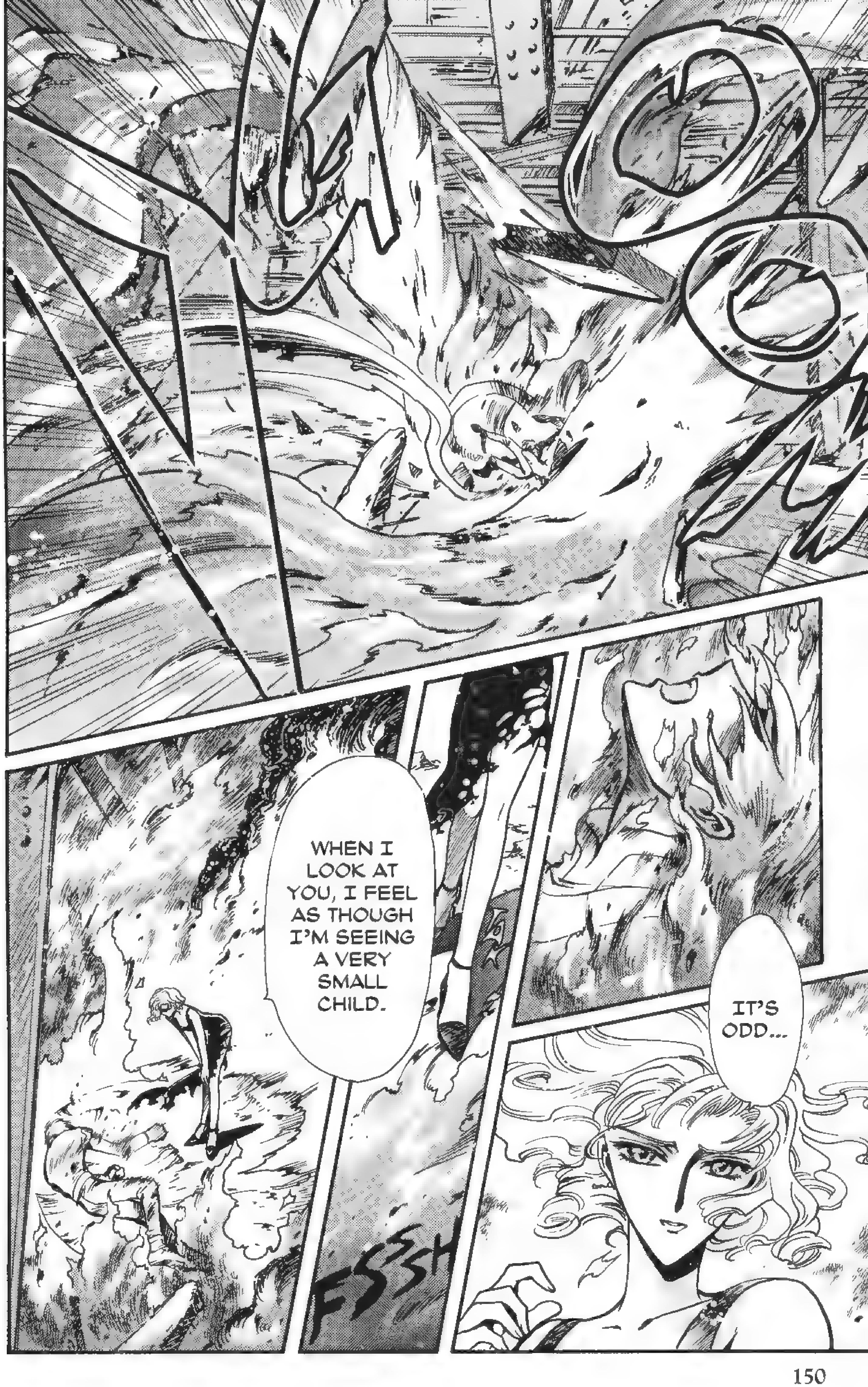

FSH
THERE! NOW WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME.
FWOOOM
JUST THE TWO OF US.
HSSS

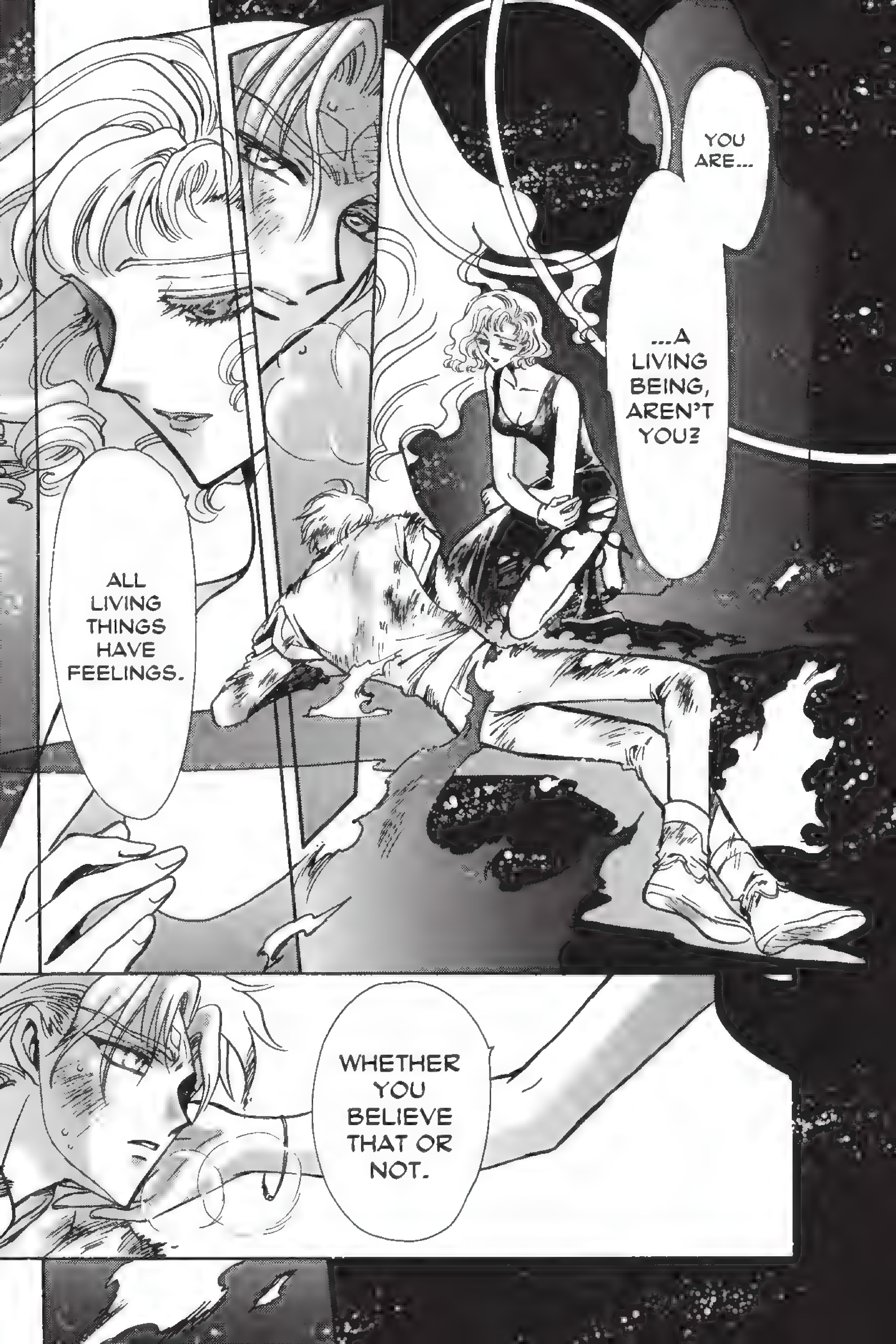

HSHO
DOO
HYUU
TWIP
THOOM
ROAR

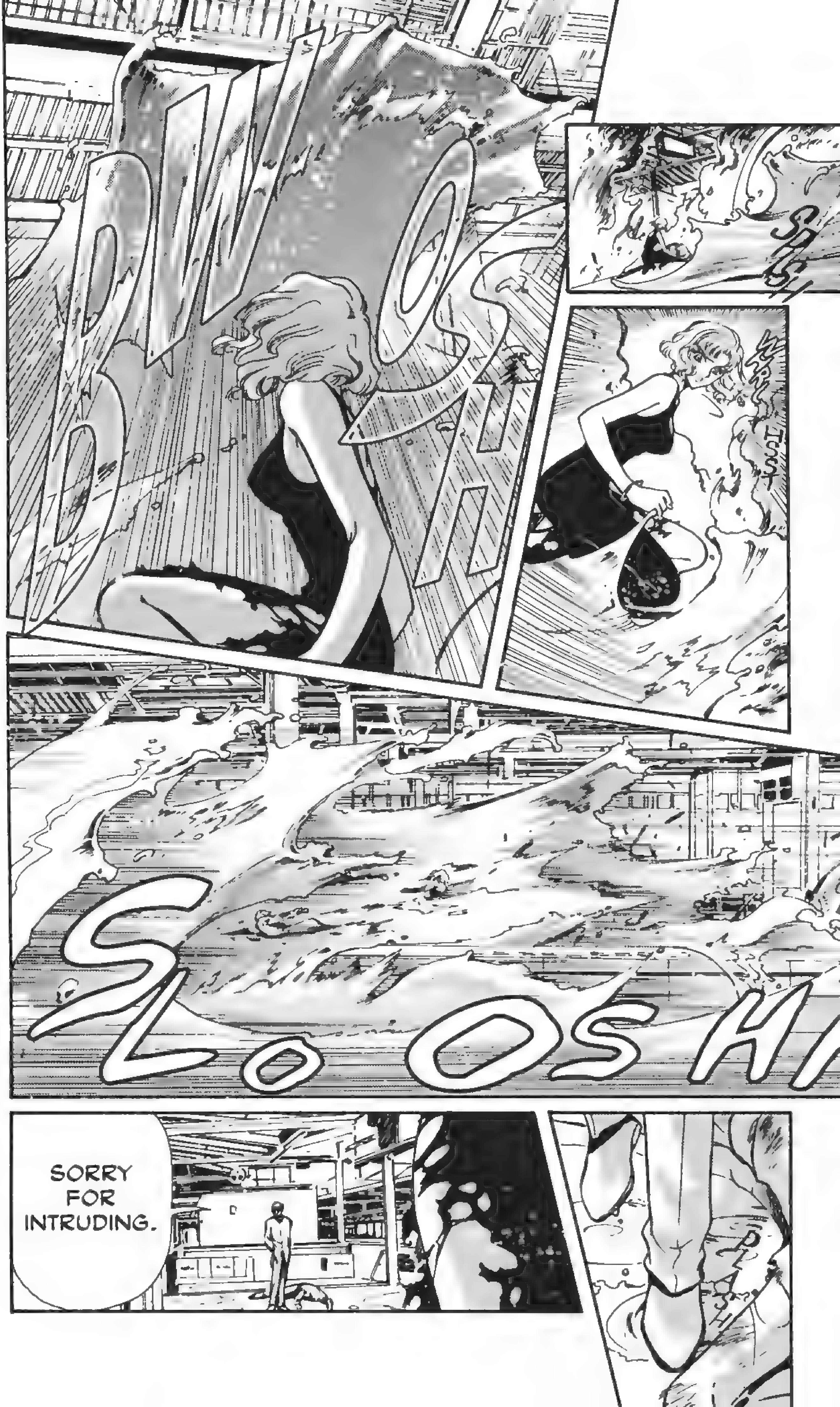

YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO YOU?
KOAAK
ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE TRAPPED UNDER THE TRAIN YOU DERAILED FELT EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

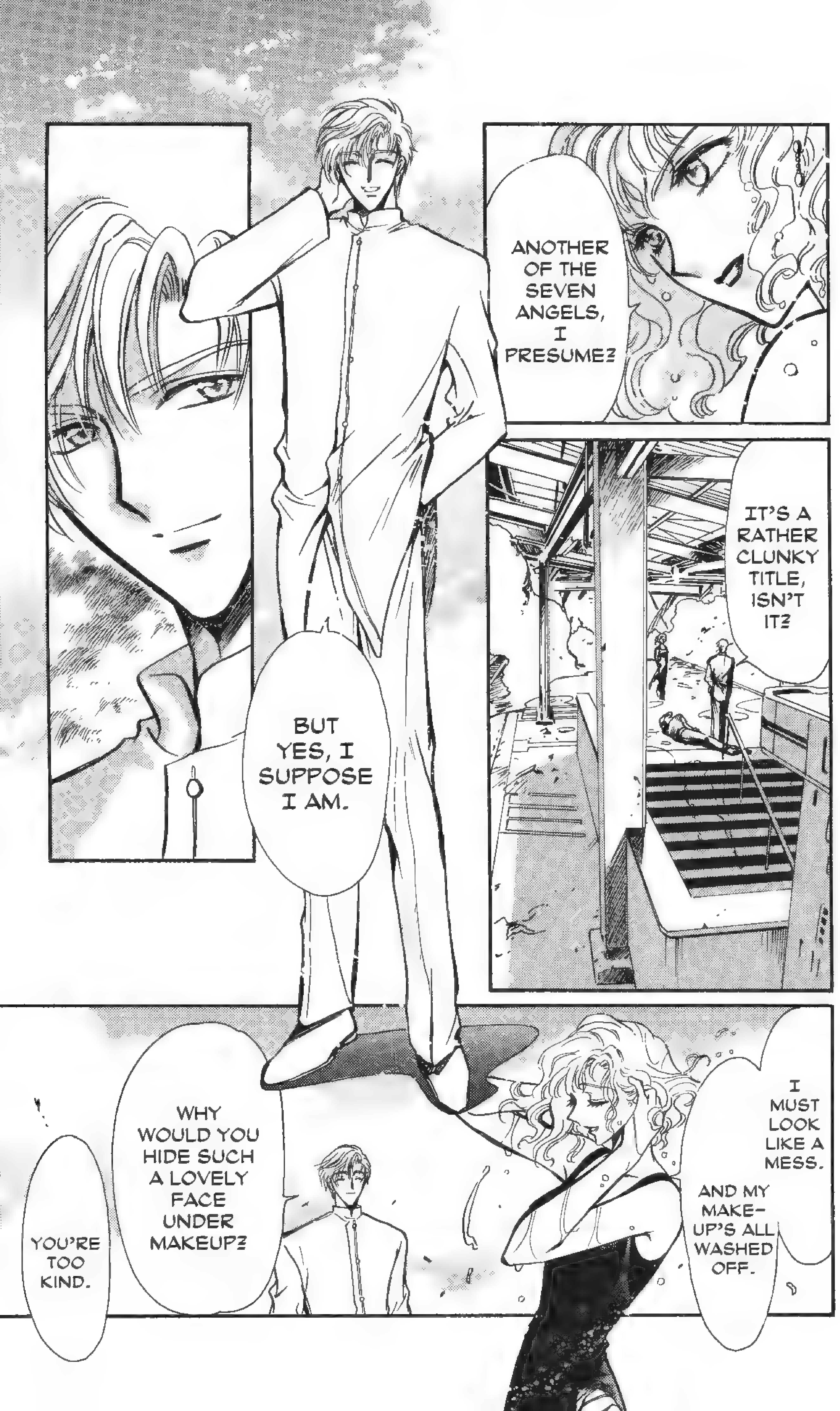

CWP
FSSSHHH
SO DON'T DO THINGS THAT—
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT I DON'T WANT TO DIE?
I HAVE NO SUCH FEELINGS.

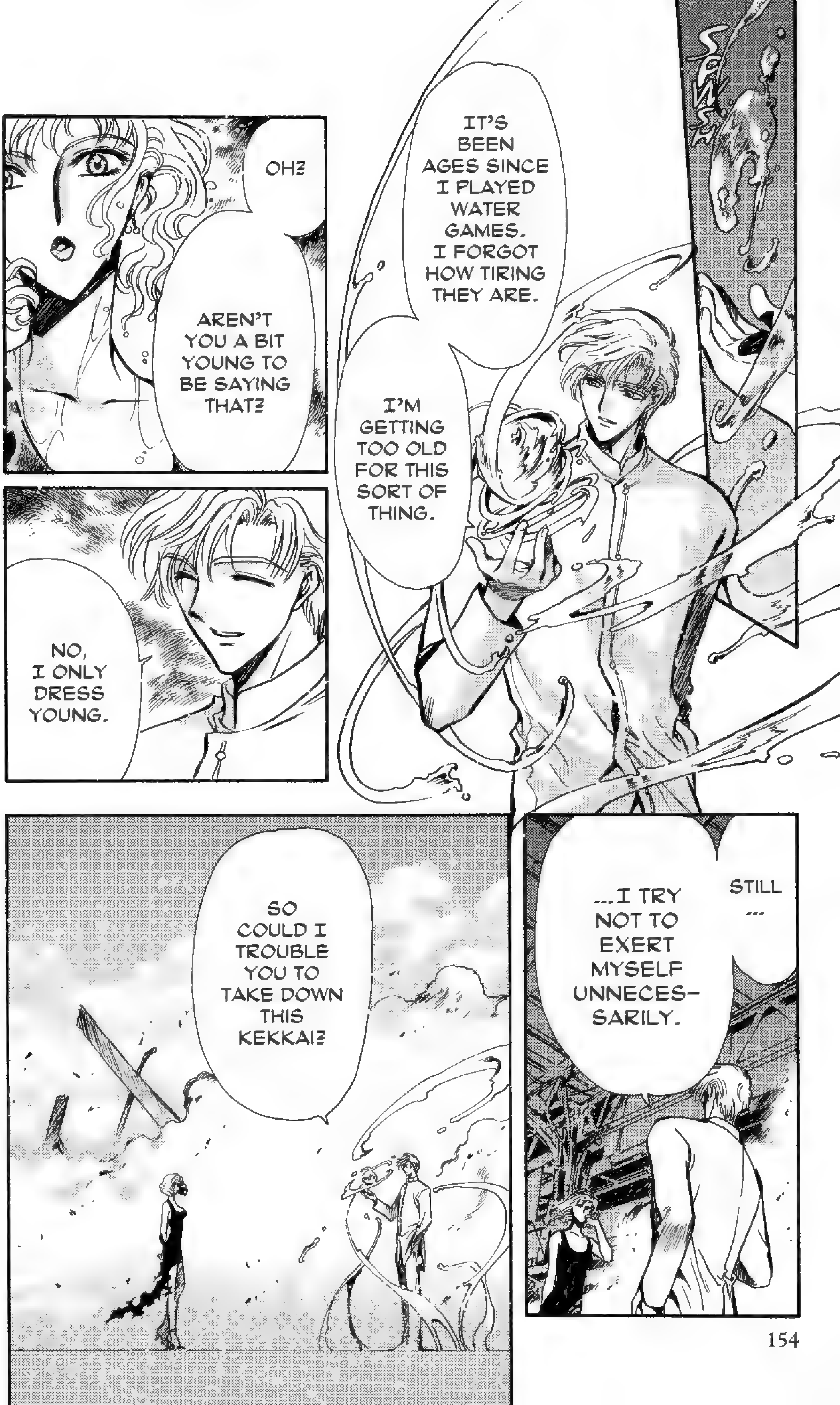

SHWIP
BOOM
KRRASH

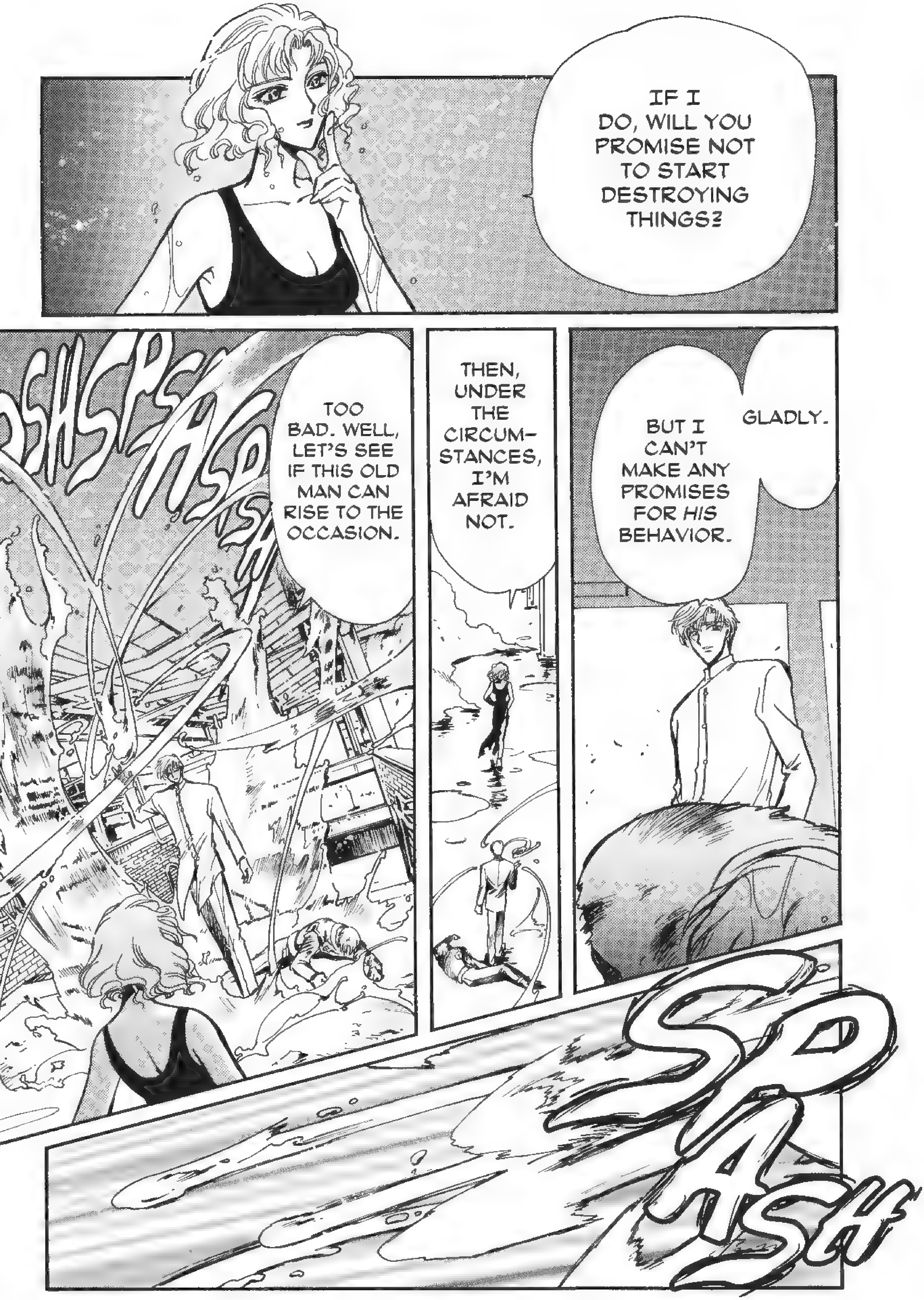

WOOM
IT'S ODD...
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M SEEING A VERY SMALL CHILD.
FSSSH

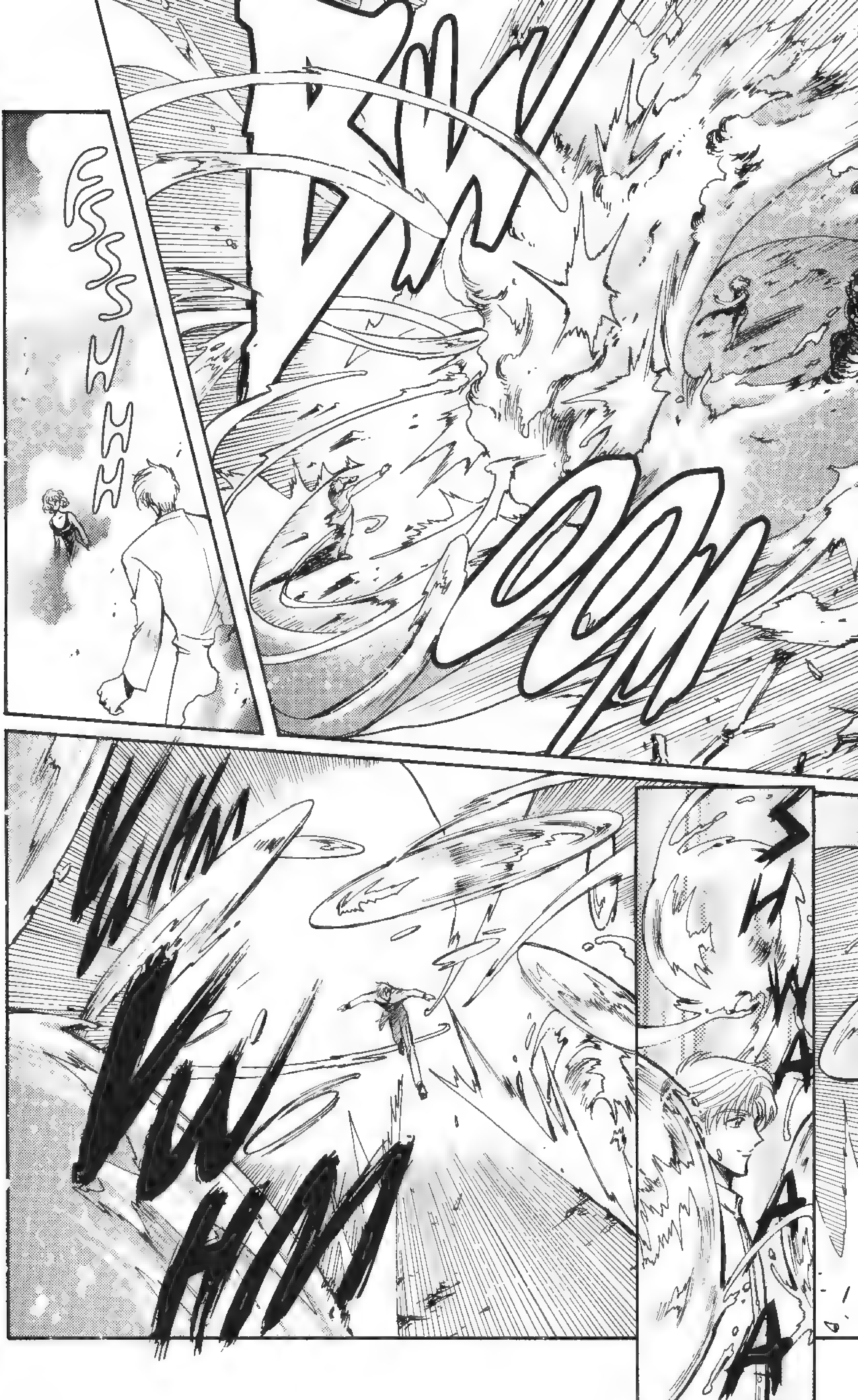

YOU ARE...
...A LIVING BEING, AREN'T YOU?
ALL LIVING THINGS HAVE FEELINGS.
WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THAT OR NOT.

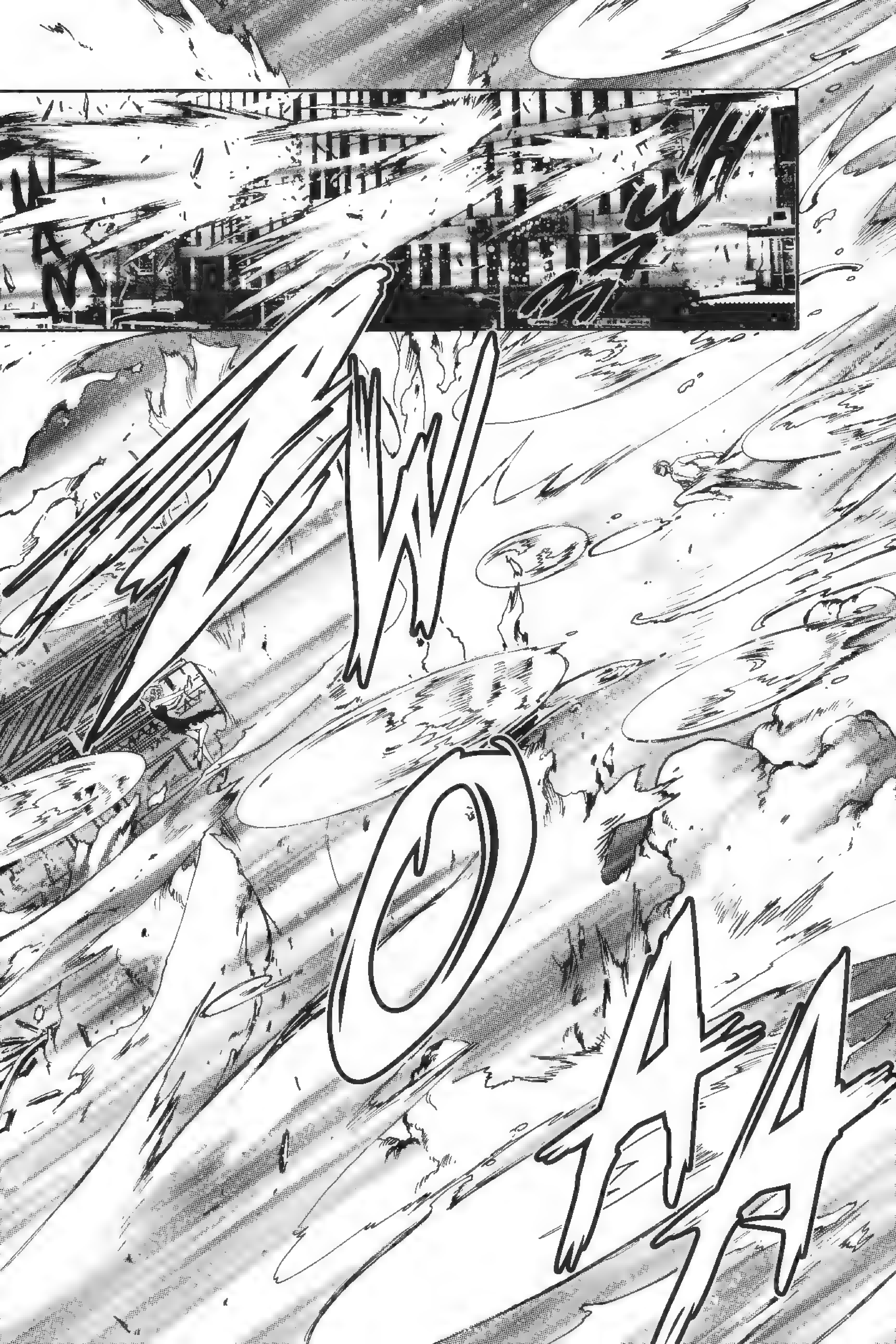

BWOOSH
SPLSH
WHRL
TSSST
SLOOSH
SORRY FOR INTRUDING.

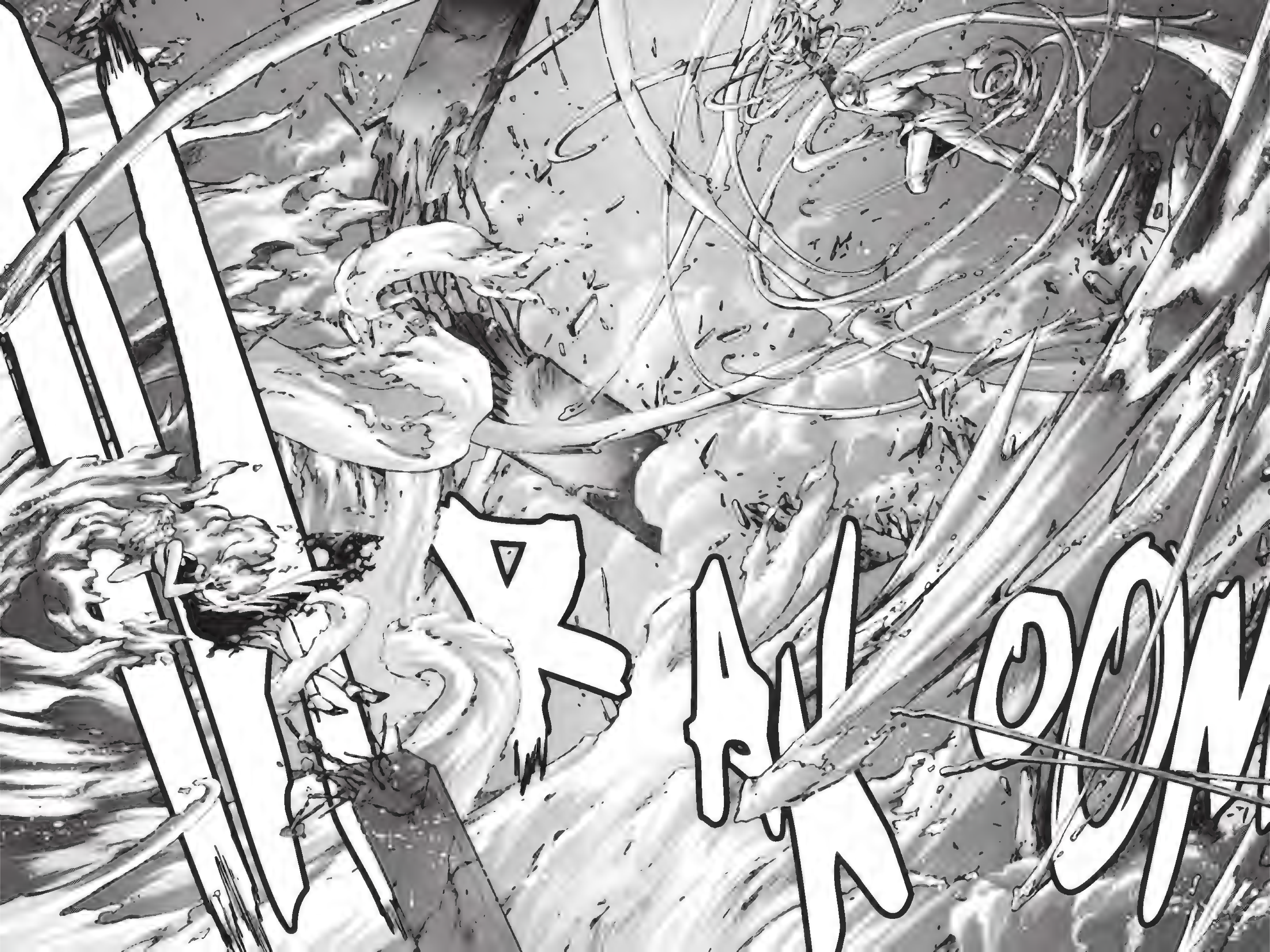

ANOTHER OF THE SEVEN ANGELS, I PRESUME?
IT'S A RATHER CLUNKY TITLE, ISN'T IT?
BUT YES, I SUPPOSE I AM.
I MUST LOOK LIKE A MESS.
AND MY MAKE-UP'S ALL WASHED OFF.
WHY WOULD YOU HIDE SUCH A LOVELY FACE UNDER MAKEUP?
YOU'RE TOO KIND.

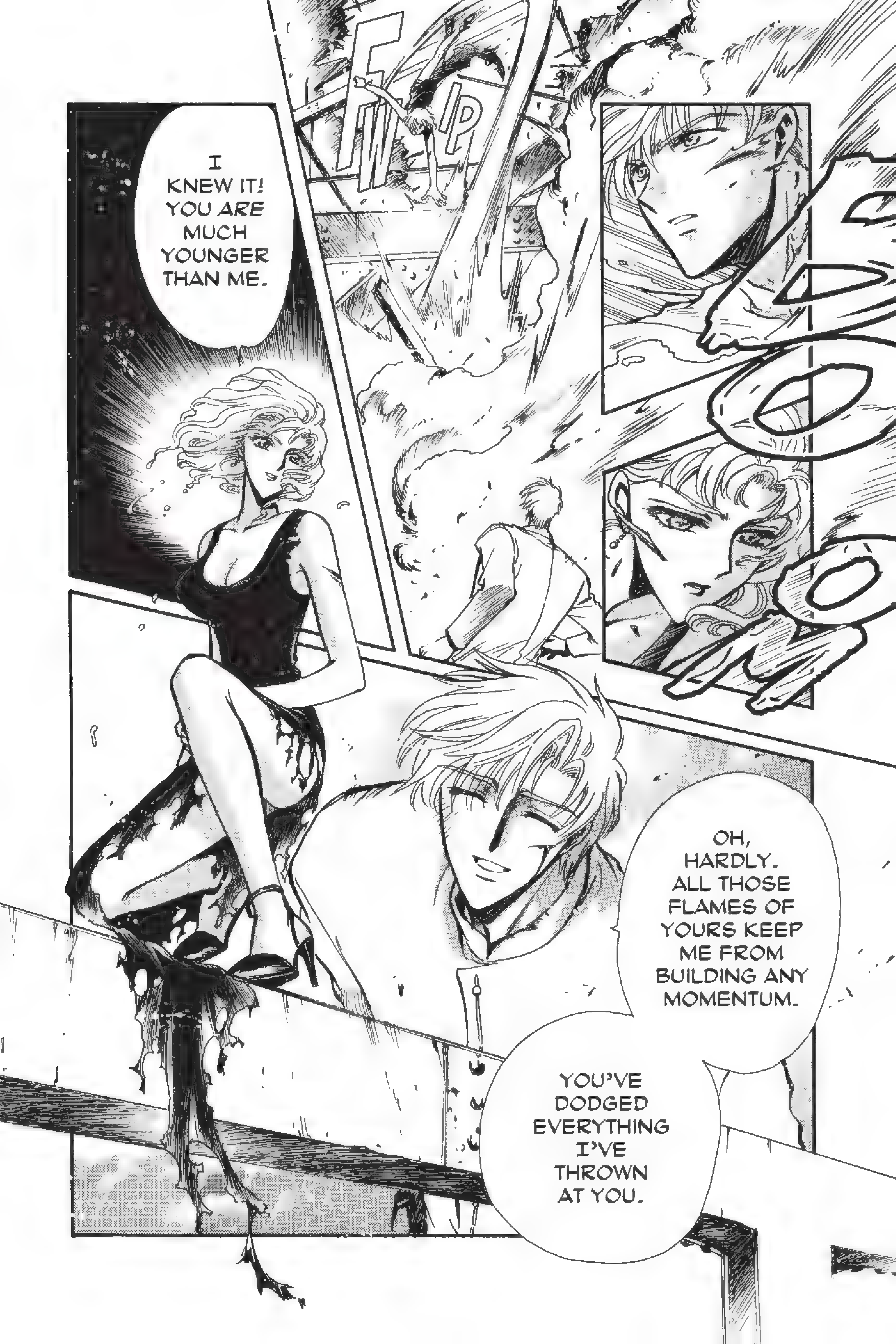

SWISH
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I PLAYED WATER GAMES. I FORGOT HOW TIRING THEY ARE.
I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS SORT OF THING.
OH?
AREN'T YOU A BIT YOUNG TO BE SAYING THAT?
NO, I ONLY DRESS YOUNG.
STILL...
...I TRY NOT TO EXERT MYSELF UNNECESSARILY.
SO COULD I TROUBLE YOU TO TAKE DOWN THIS KEKKAI?

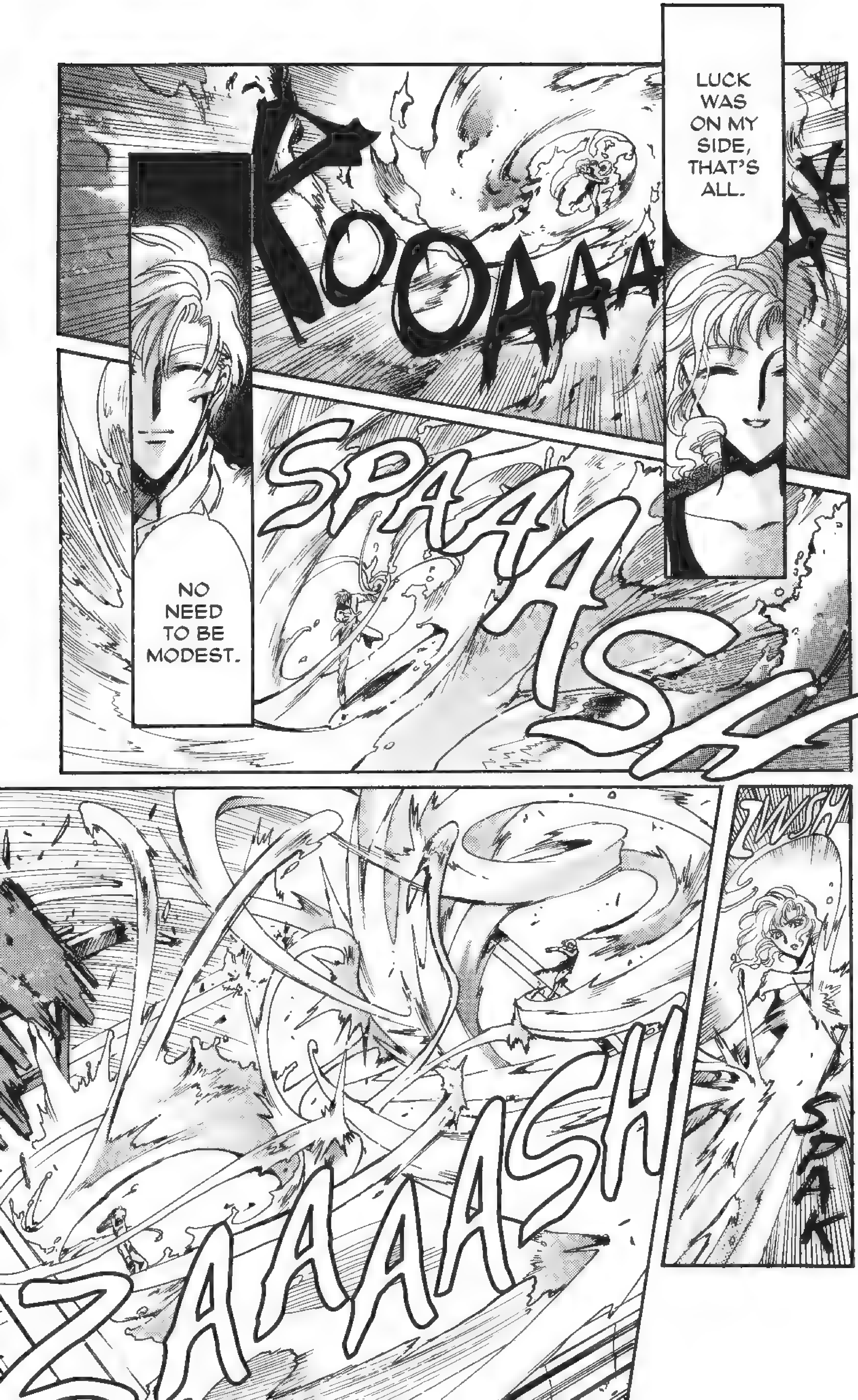

IF I DO, WILL YOU PROMISE NOT TO START DESTROYING THINGS?
GLADLY.
BUT I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES FOR *HIS* BEHAVIOR.
THEN, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I'M AFRAID NOT.
TOO BAD. WELL, LET'S SEE IF THIS OLD MAN CAN RISE TO THE OCCASION.
SPASH
SPASH

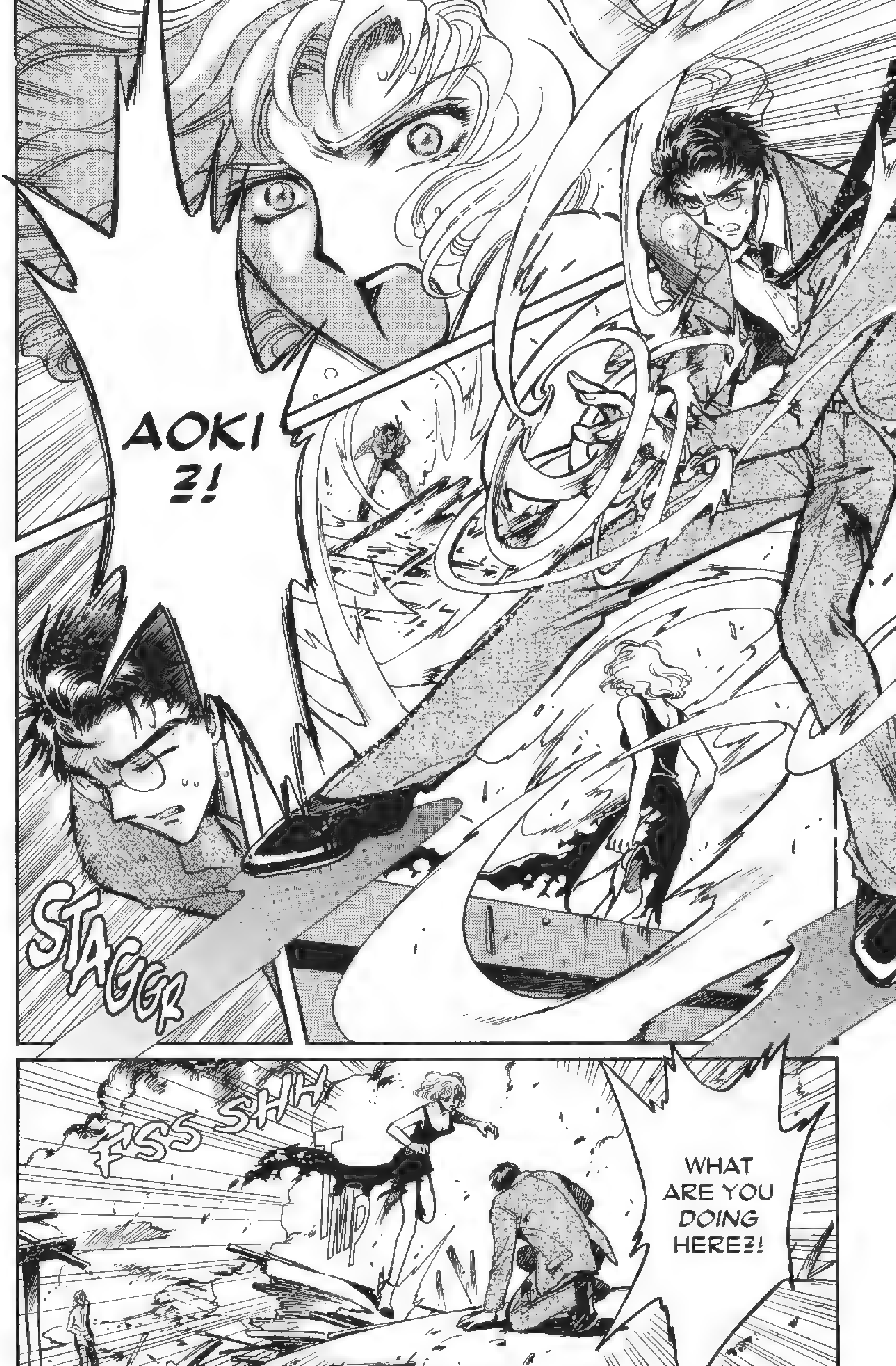

OOOM
FSSSHHHH
SHWAAAA
WHM WUHM

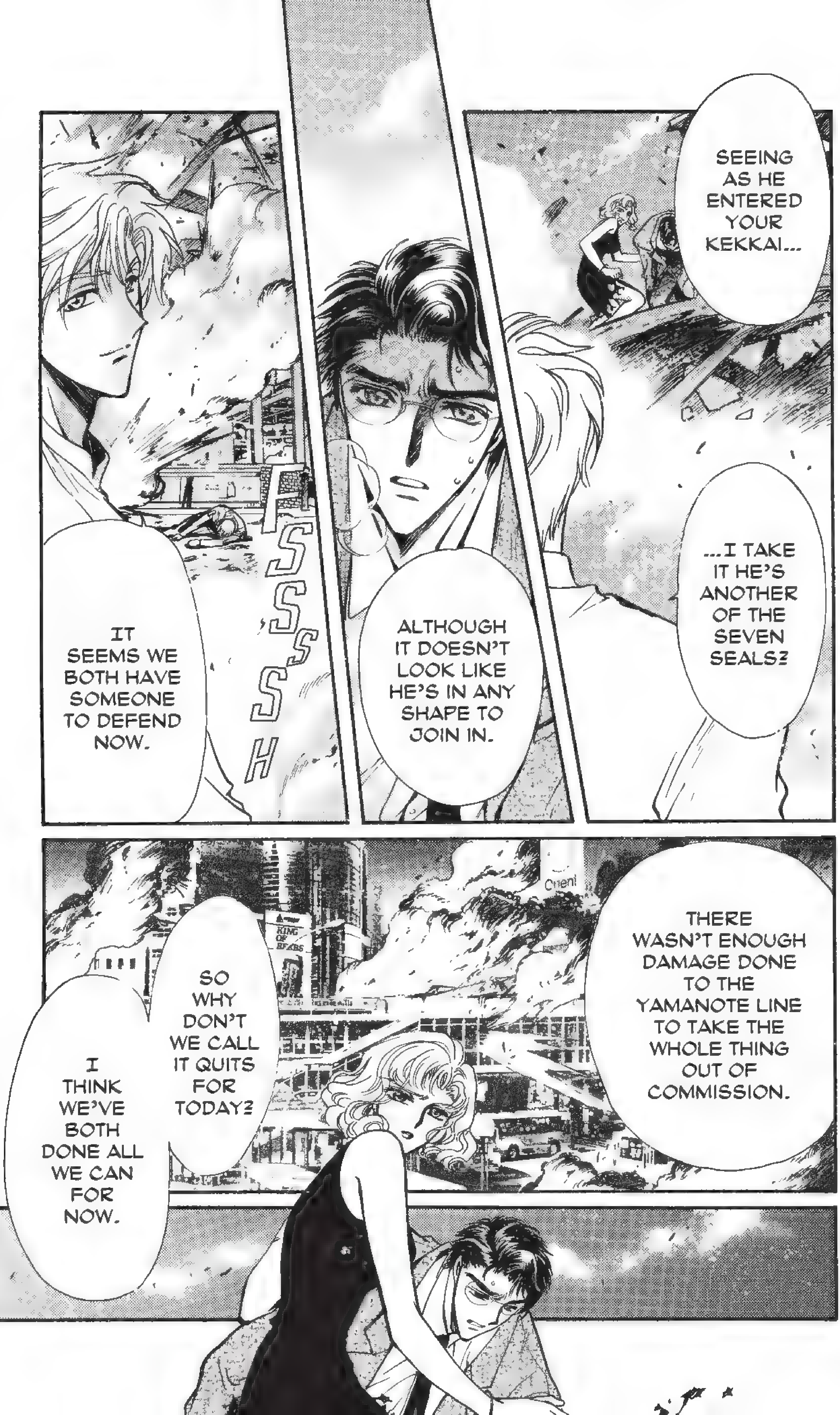

WAM
WWOAA

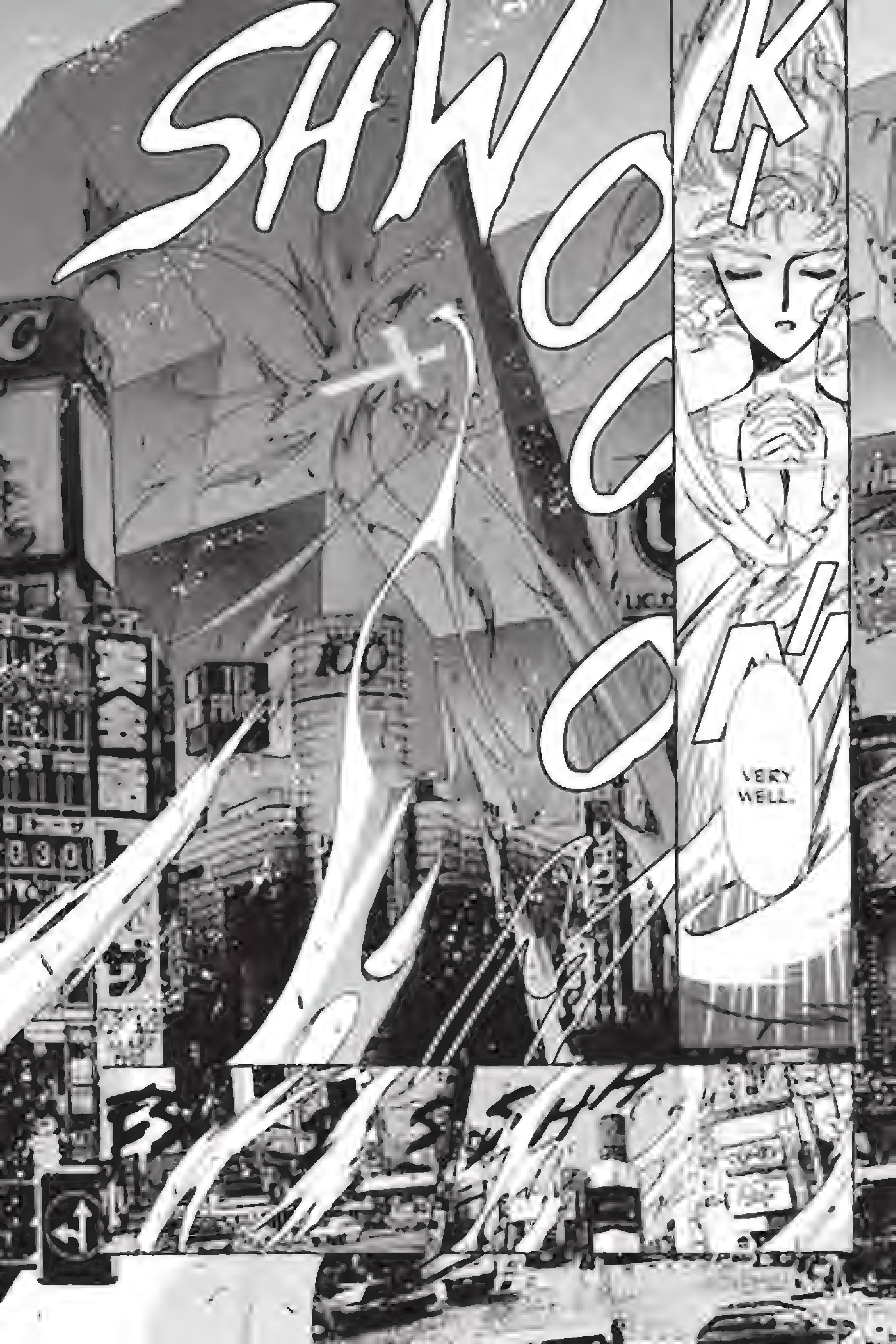

KABOOM

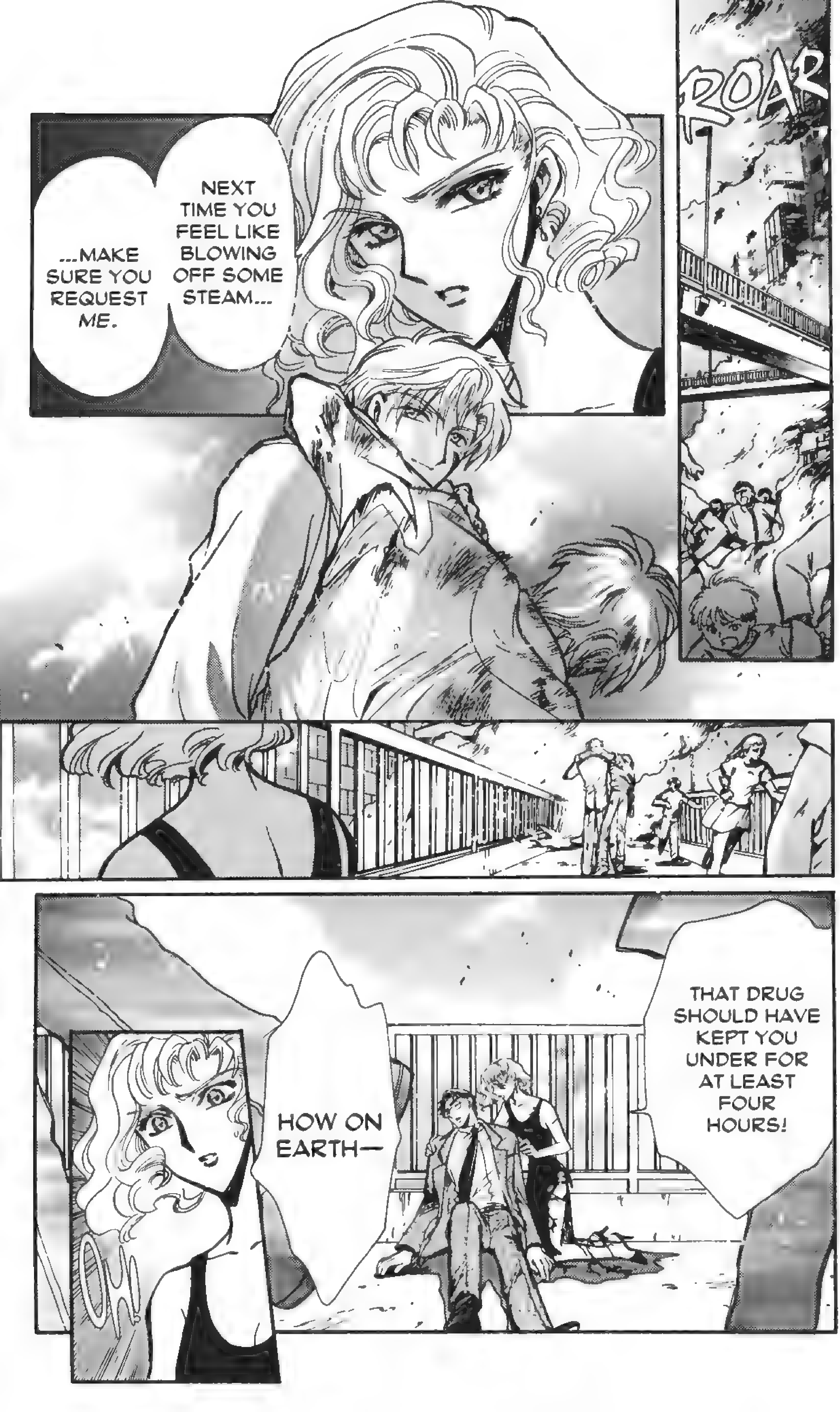

BOOOM
FLIP
I KNEW IT! YOU *ARE* MUCH YOUNGER THAN ME.
OH, HARDLY. ALL THOSE FLAMES OF YOURS KEEP ME FROM BUILDING ANY MOMENTUM.
YOU'VE DODGED EVERYTHING I'VE THROWN AT YOU.

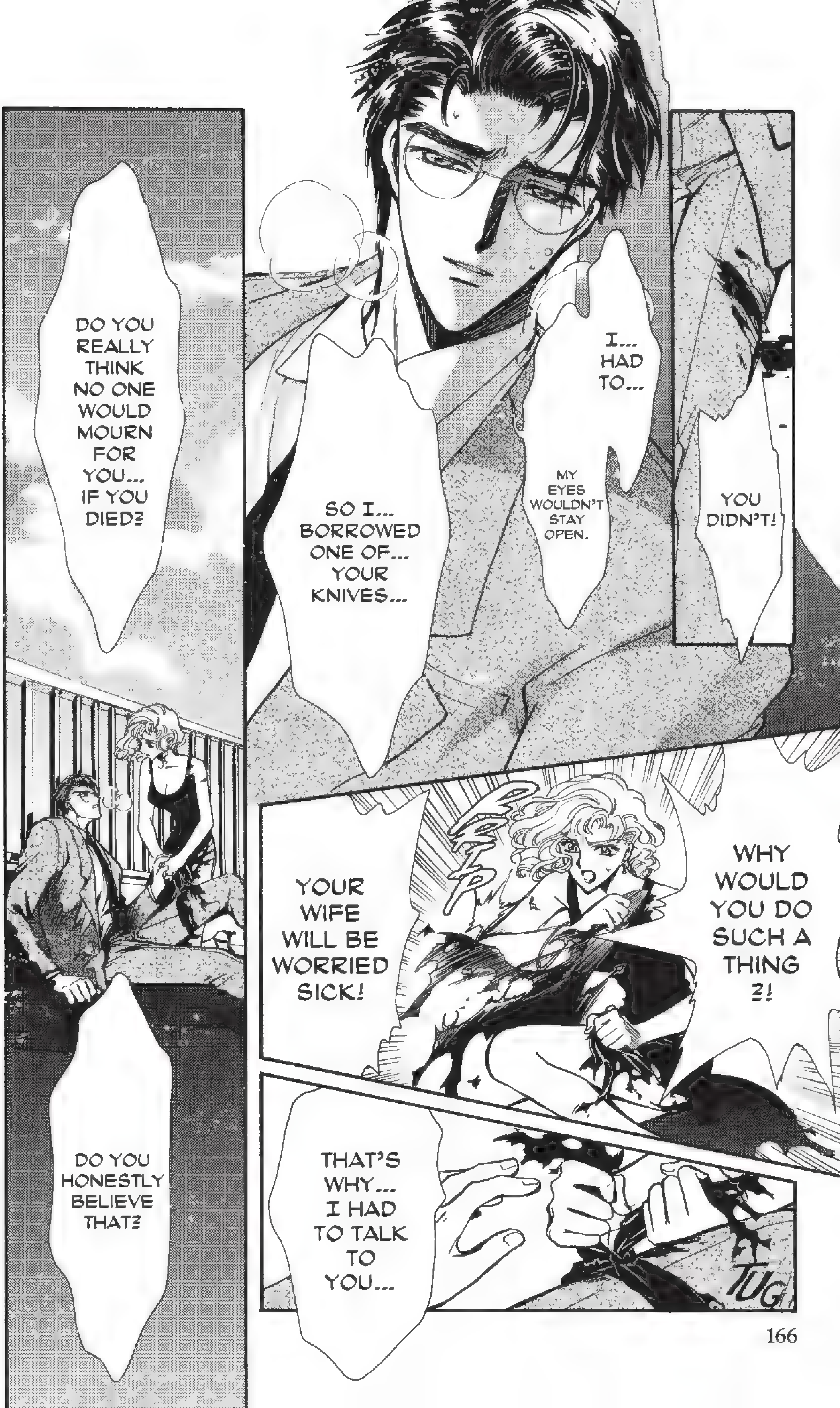

LUCK WAS ON MY SIDE, THAT'S ALL.
KOOAAAA
NO NEED TO BE MODEST.
SPAAAASH
WSH
SPAK
ZAAAASH

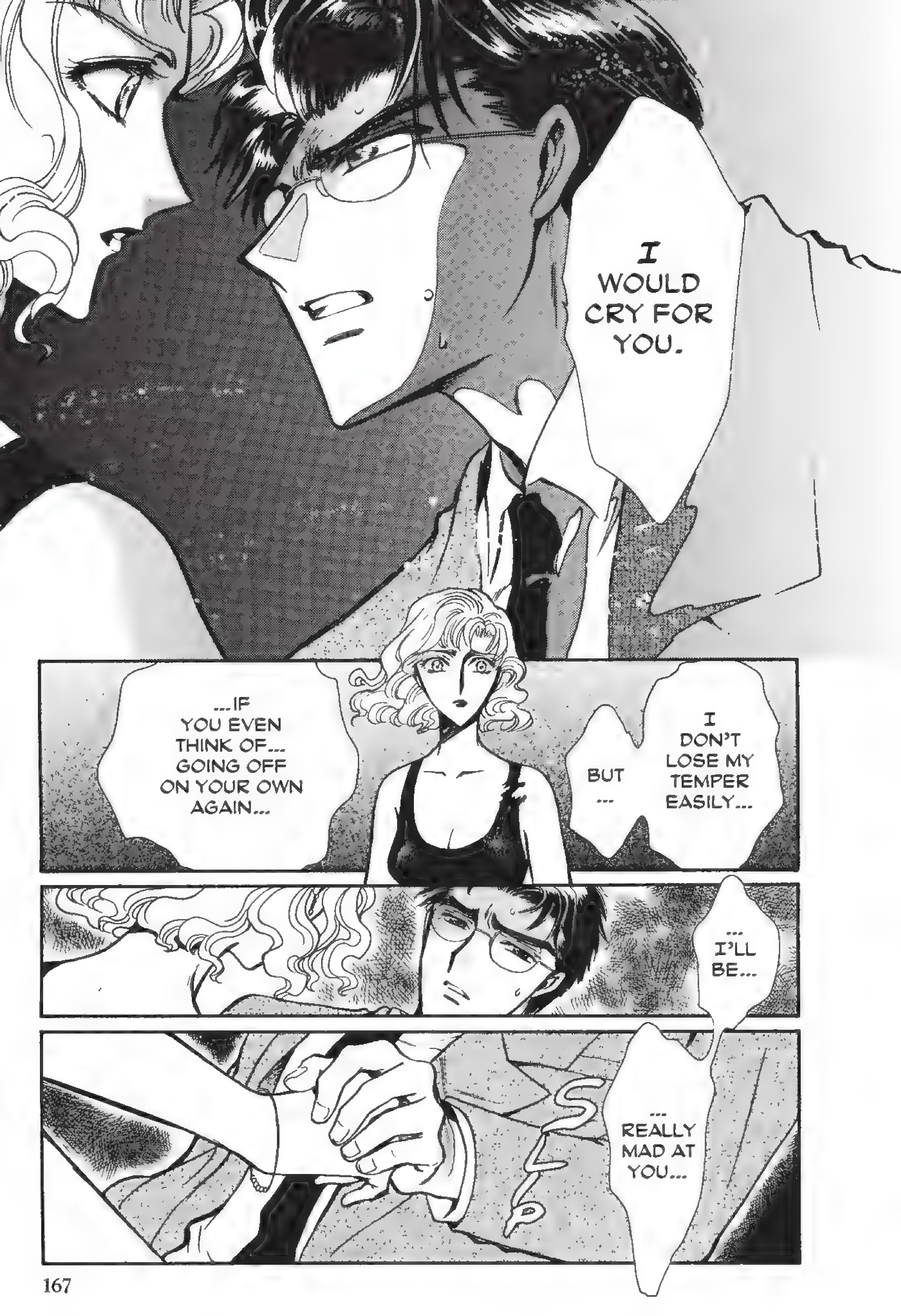

AOKI ?!
STAGGER
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?!
FSS SHH
TMP

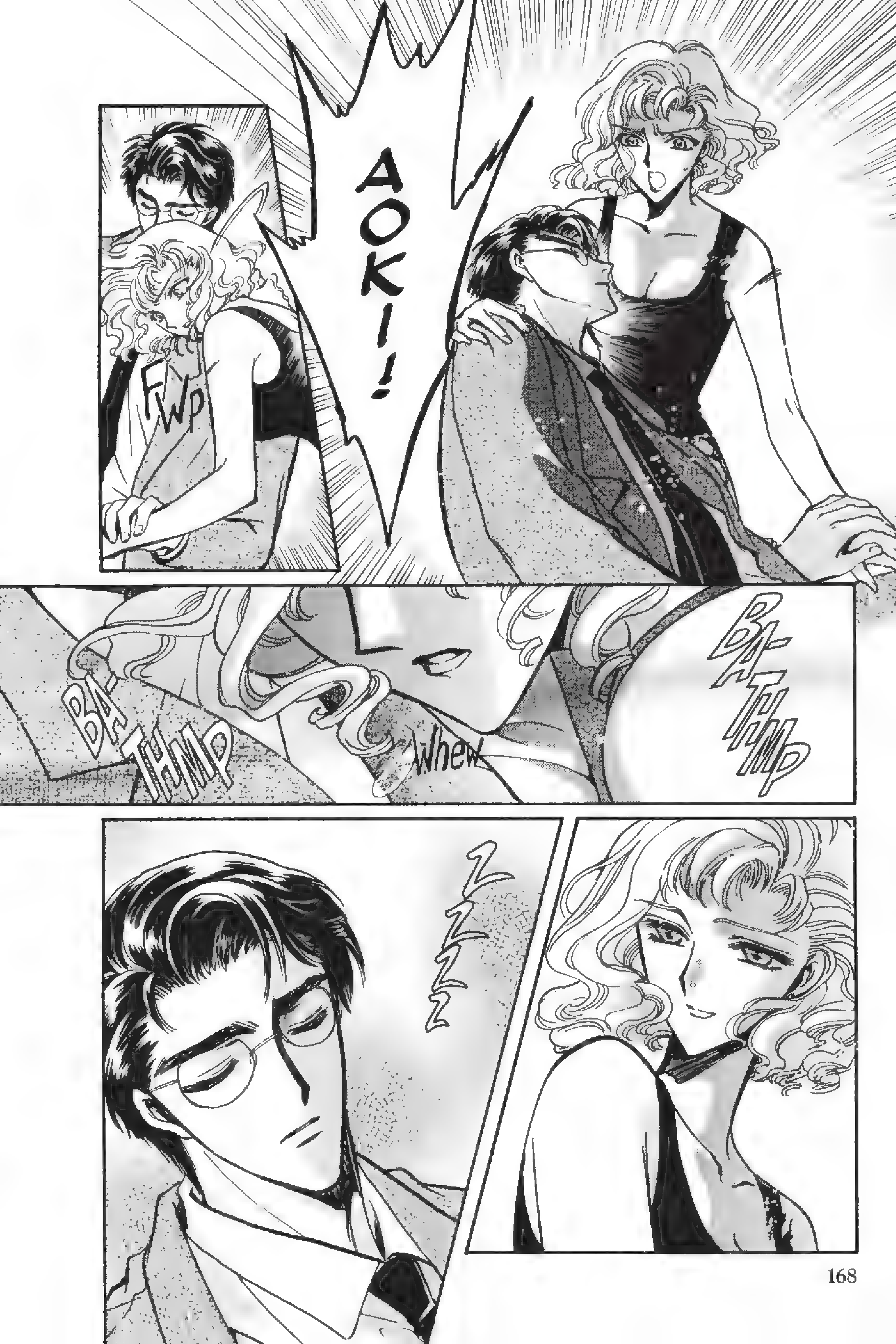

SEEING AS HE ENTERED YOUR KEKKAI...
...I TAKE IT HE'S ANOTHER OF THE SEVEN SEALS?
ALTHOUGH IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S IN ANY SHAPE TO JOIN IN.
FSSSSH
IT SEEMS WE BOTH HAVE SOMEONE TO DEFEND NOW.
THERE WASN'T ENOUGH DAMAGE DONE TO THE YAMANOTE LINE TO TAKE THE WHOLE THING OUT OF COMMISSION.
SO WHY DON'T WE CALL IT QUITS FOR TODAY?
I THINK WE'VE BOTH DONE ALL WE CAN FOR NOW.

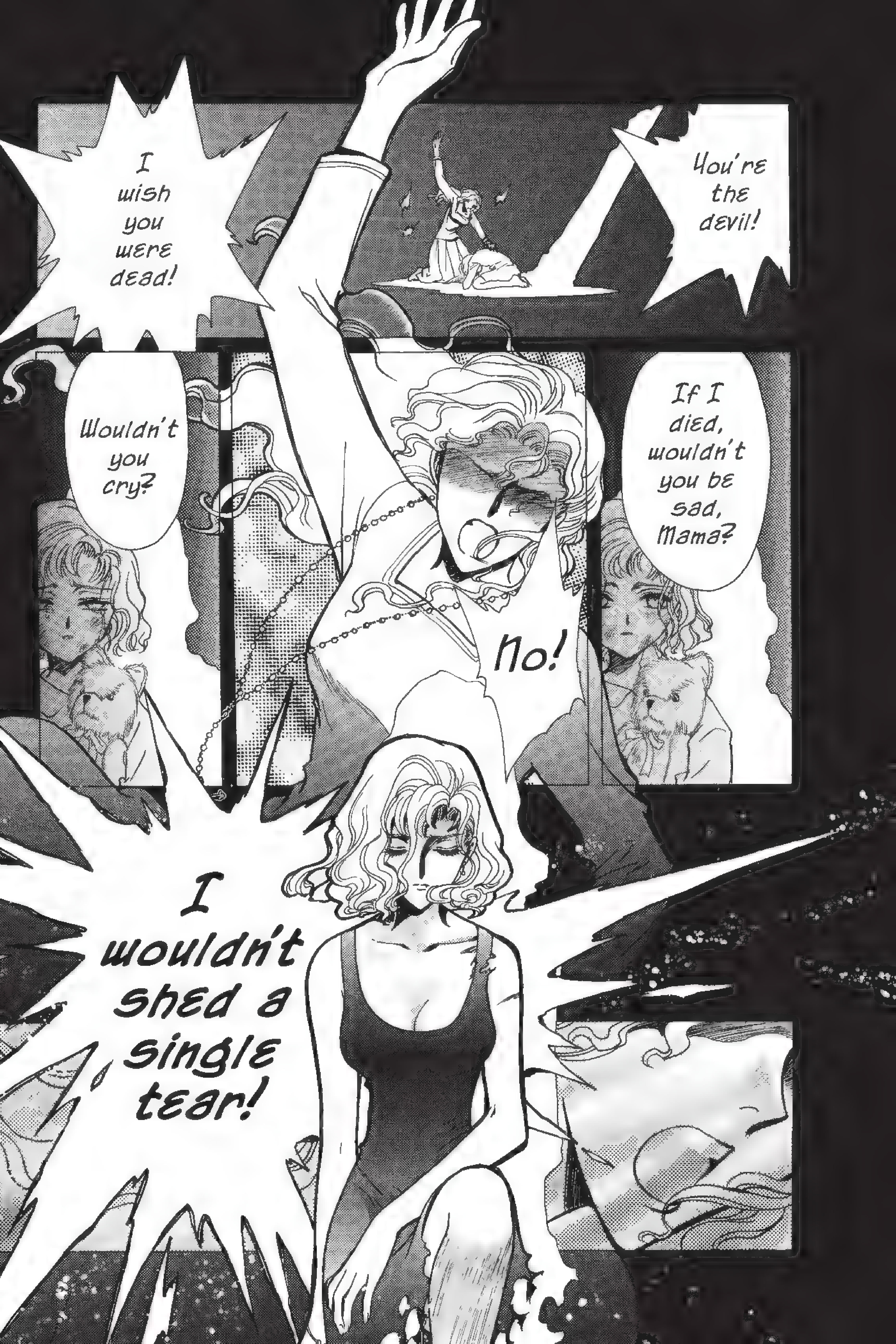

SHWOOO
KIN
VERY WELL.
109
BSSH

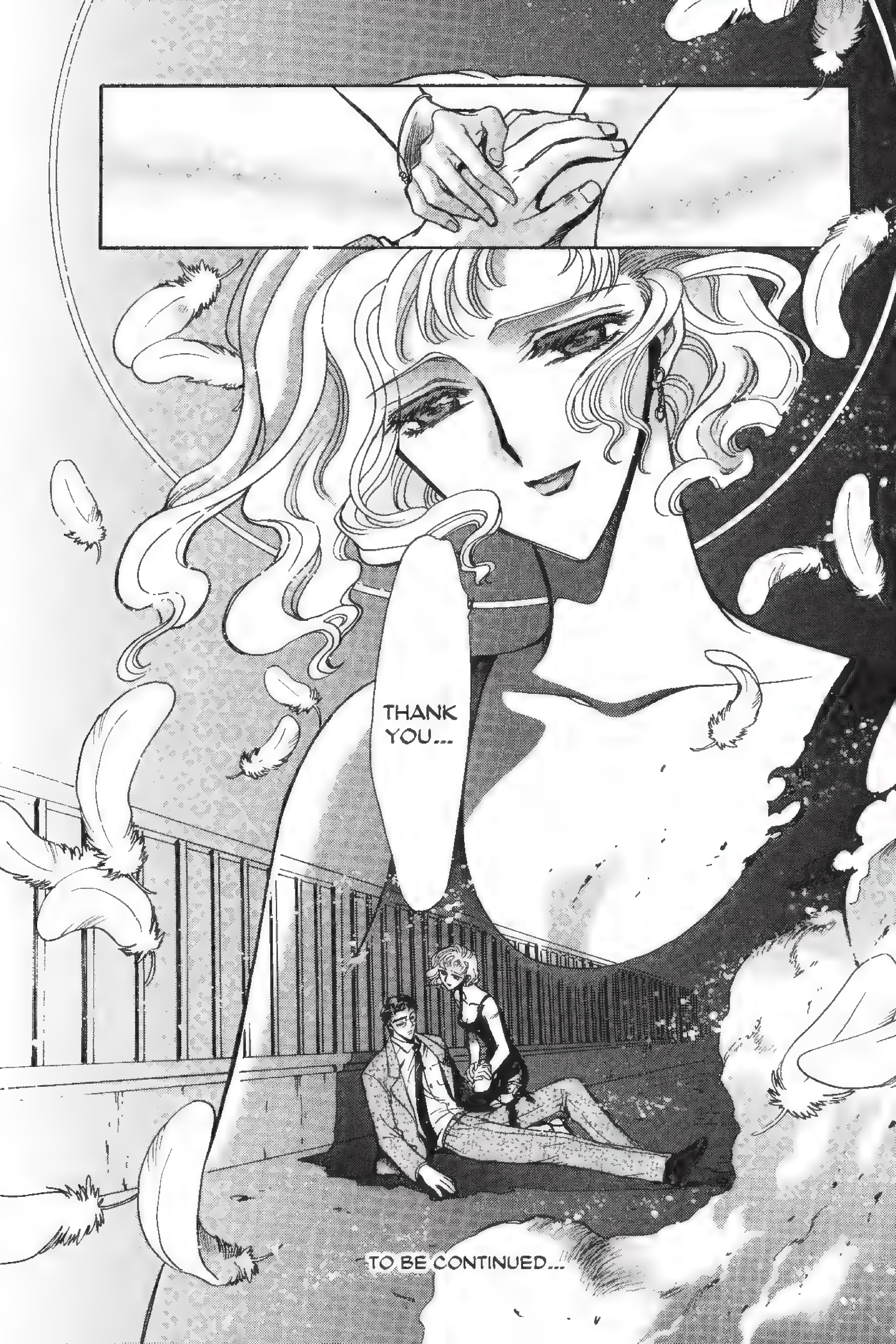

ROAR
NEXT TIME YOU FEEL LIKE BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM...
...MAKE SURE YOU REQUEST ME.
THAT DRUG SHOULD HAVE KEPT YOU UNDER FOR AT LEAST FOUR HOURS!
HOW ON EARTH—
OH!


YOU DIDN'T!
I... HAD TO...
MY EYES WOULDN'T STAY OPEN.
SO I... BORROWED ONE OF... YOUR KNIVES...
WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
YOUR WIFE WILL BE WORRIED SICK!
TUG
THAT'S WHY... I HAD TO TALK TO YOU...
DO YOU REALLY THINK NO ONE WOULD MOURN FOR YOU... IF YOU DIED?
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT?


I WOULD CRY FOR YOU.
I DON'T LOSE MY TEMPER EASILY...
BUT ...
...IF YOU EVEN THINK OF... GOING OFF ON YOUR OWN AGAIN...
... I'LL BE...
... REALLY MAD AT YOU...


AOKI!!
Fwp
BA-THMP
Whew
BA-THMP
ZZZZ

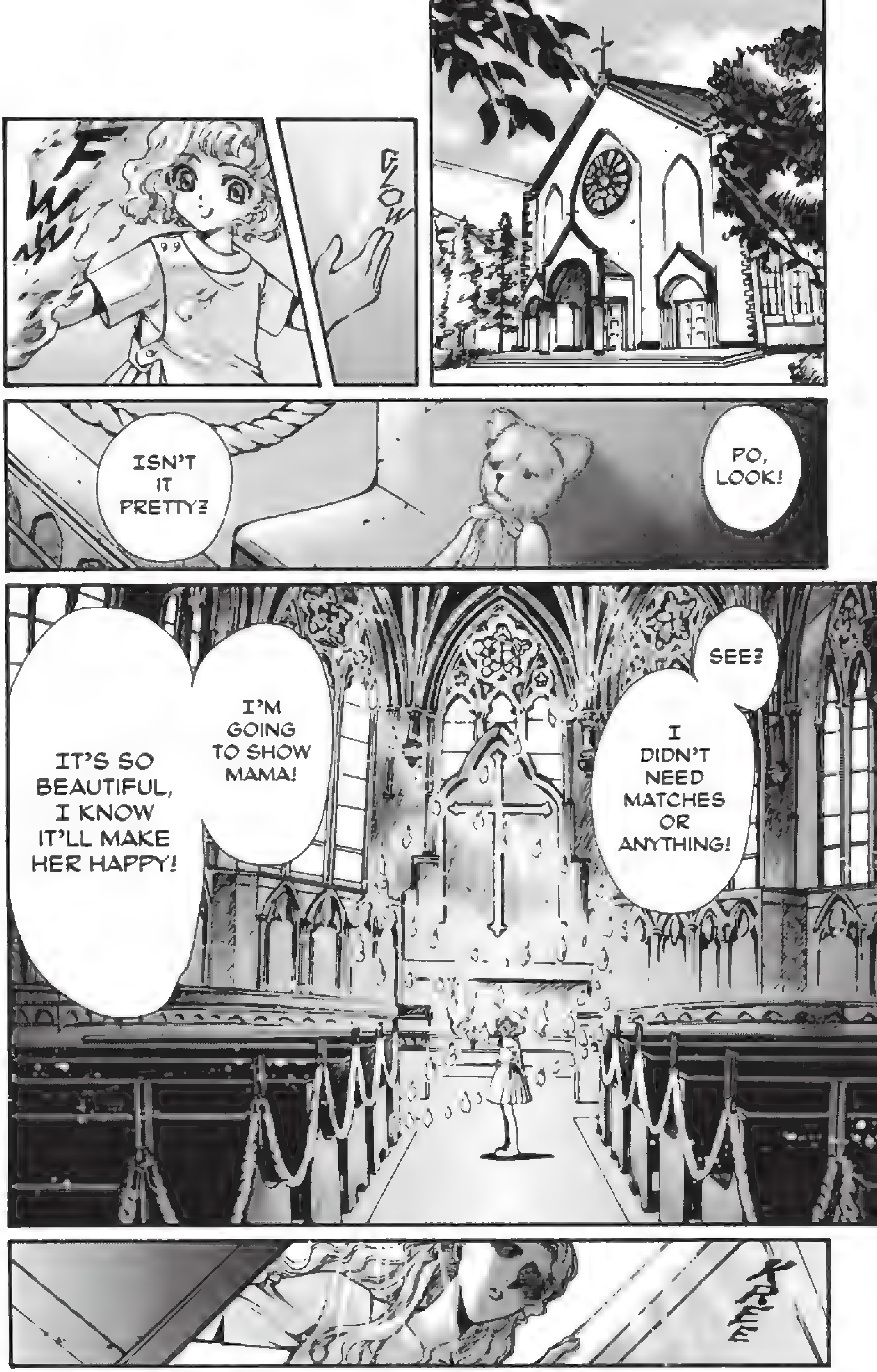

You're the devil!
I wish you were dead!
If I died, wouldn't you be sad, Mama?
No!
Wouldn't you cry?
I wouldn't shed a single tear!

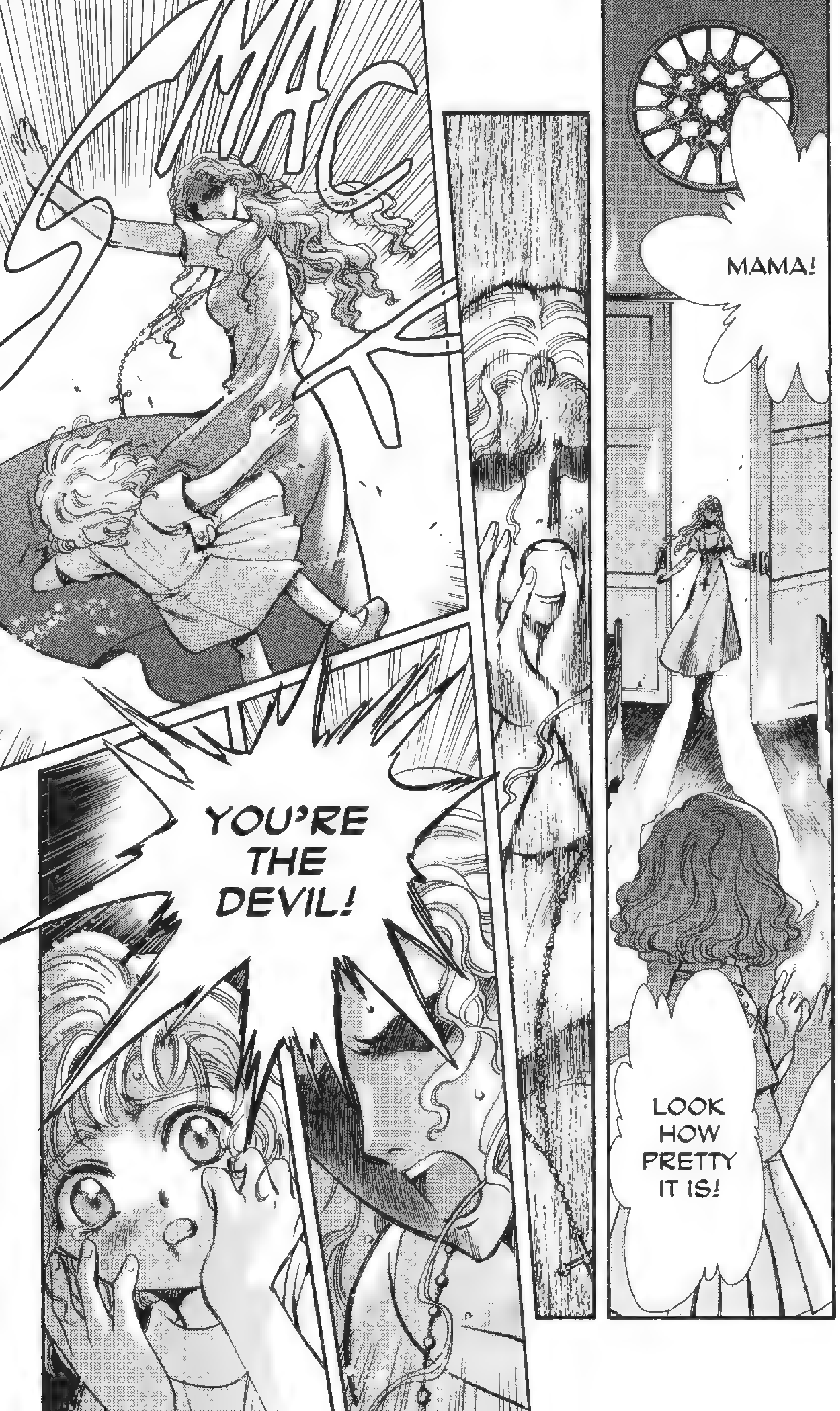

THANK YOU...
TO BE CONTINUED...

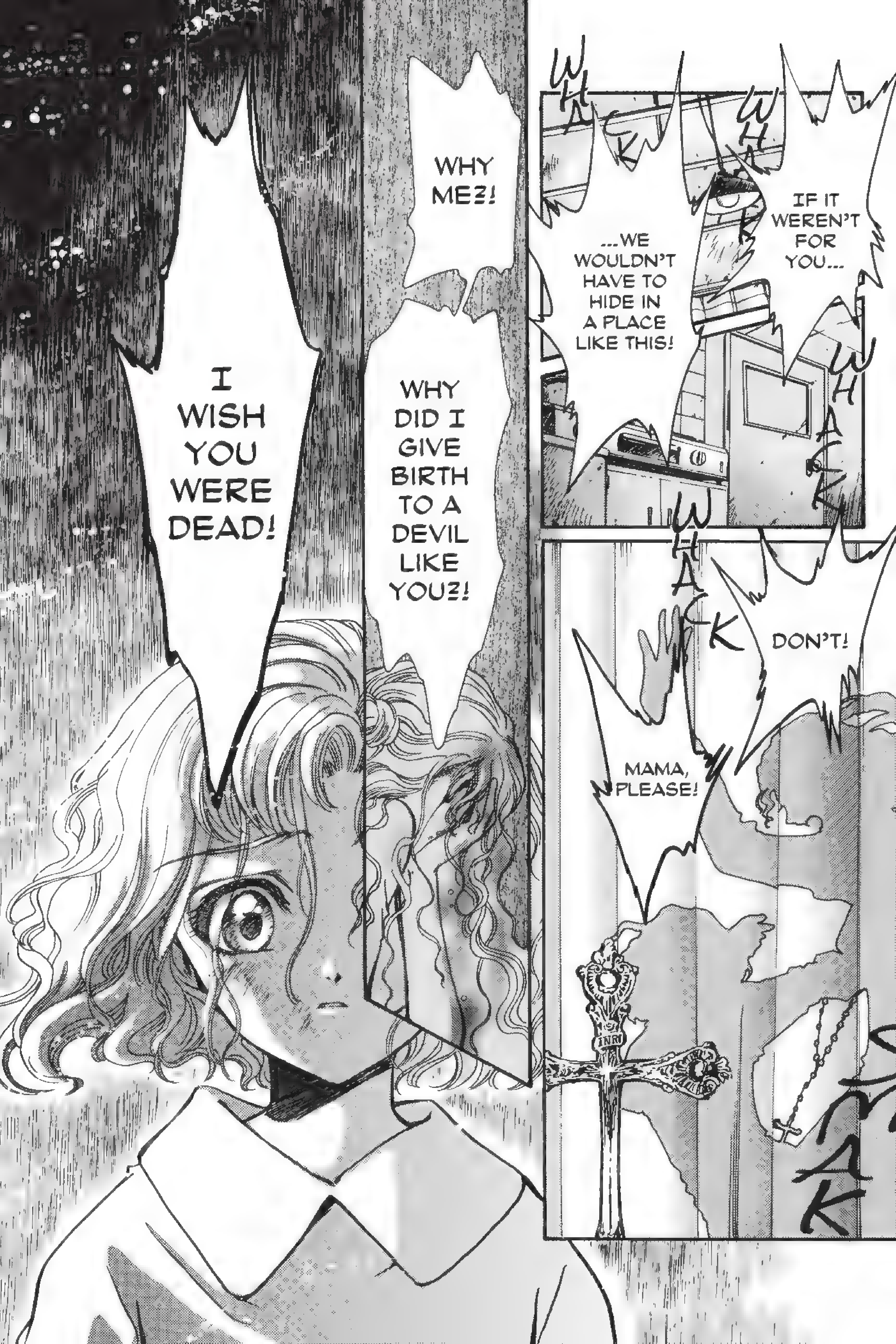
X

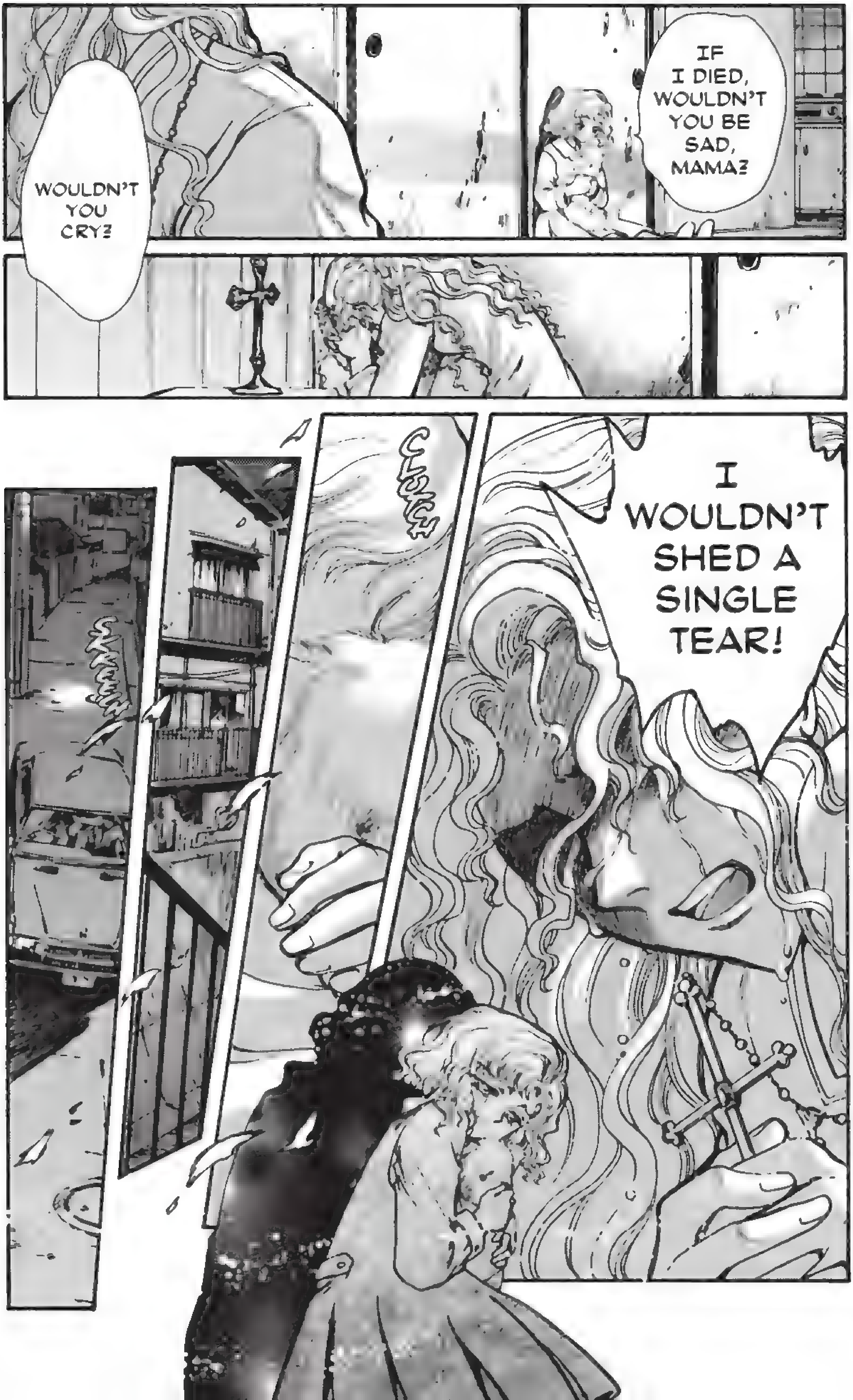
X

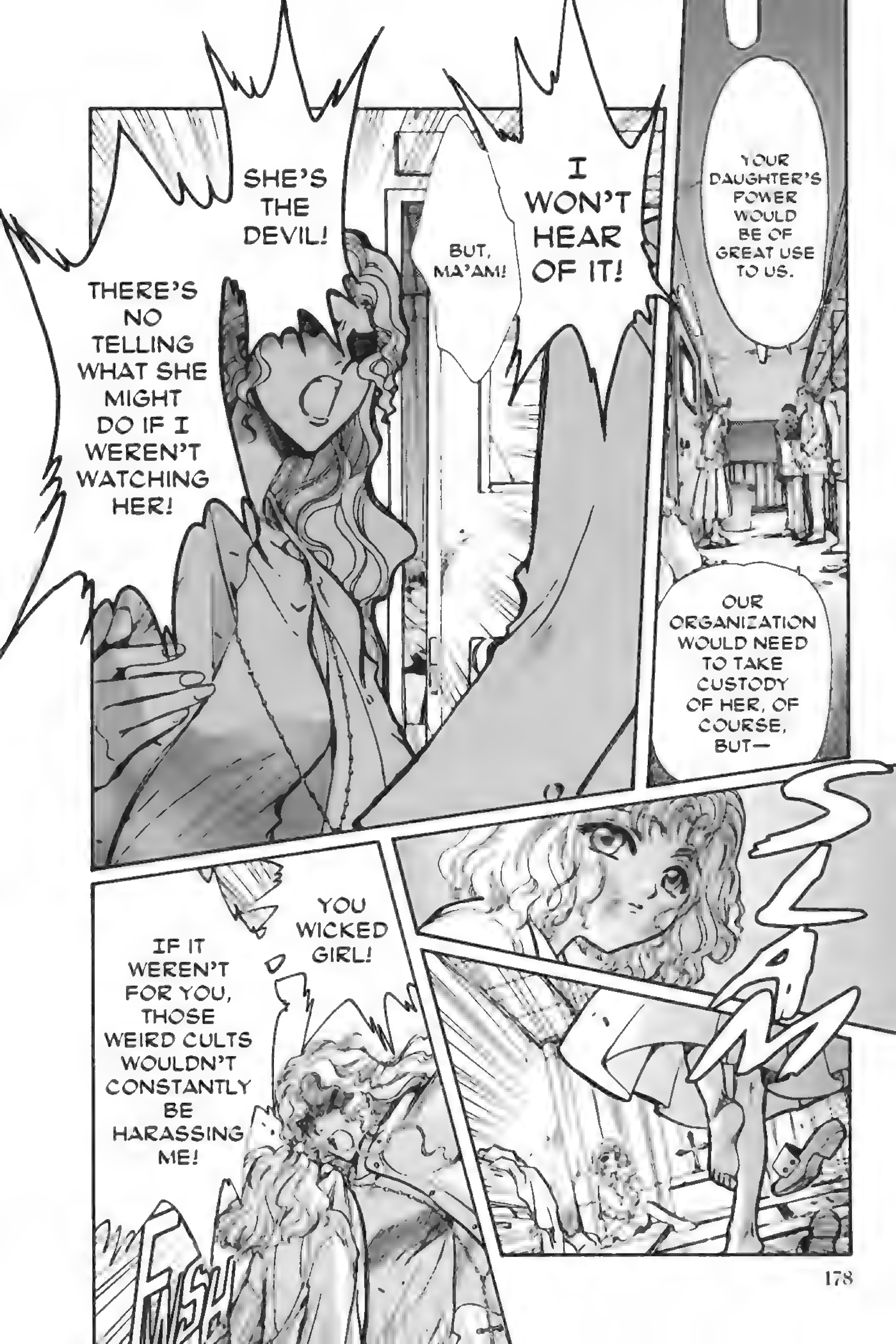
KAREN KASUMI

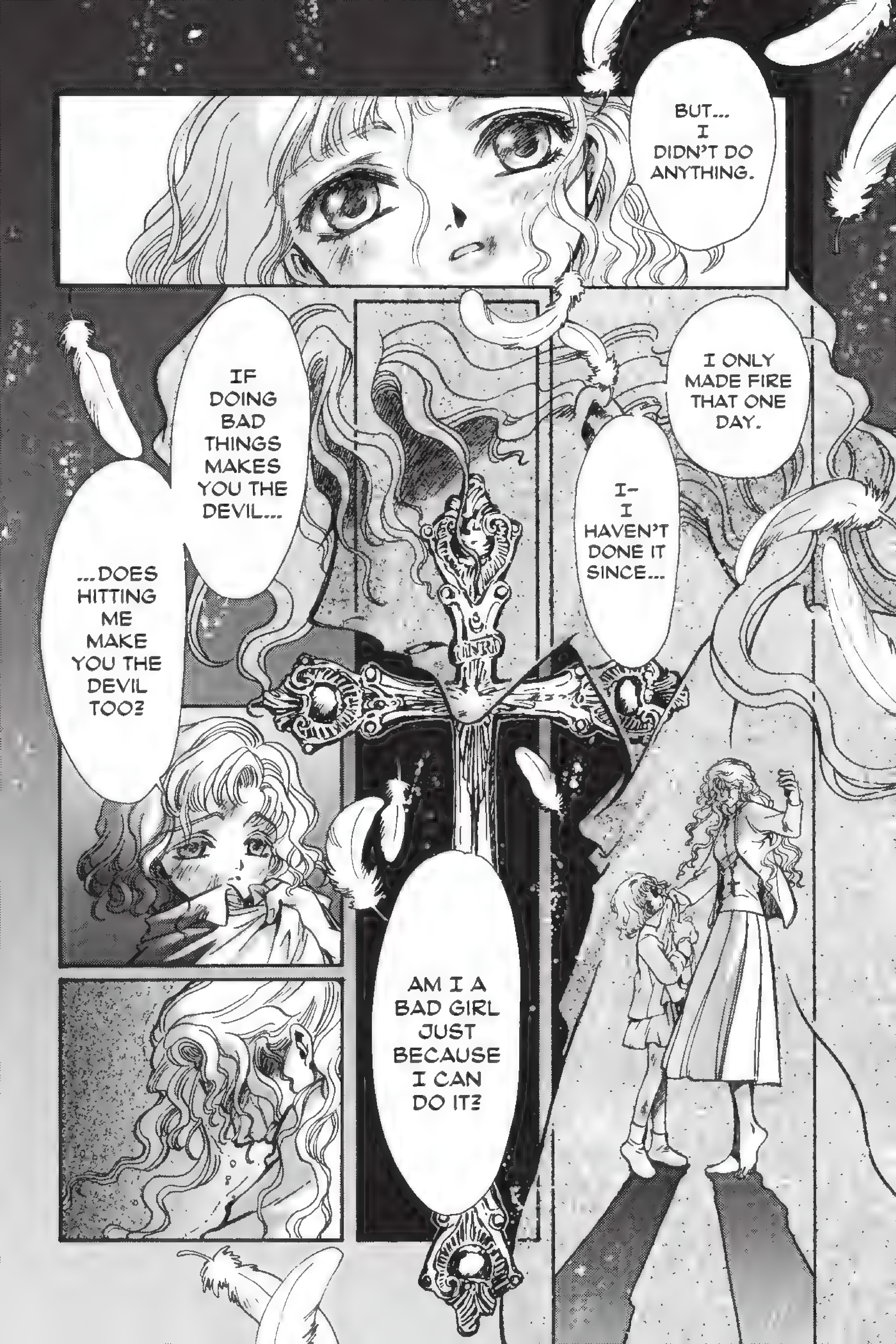

GLOW
FWW
PO, LOOK!
ISN'T IT PRETTY?
SEE?
I DIDN'T NEED MATCHES OR ANYTHING!
I'M GOING TO SHOW MAMA!
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL, I KNOW IT'LL MAKE HER HAPPY!

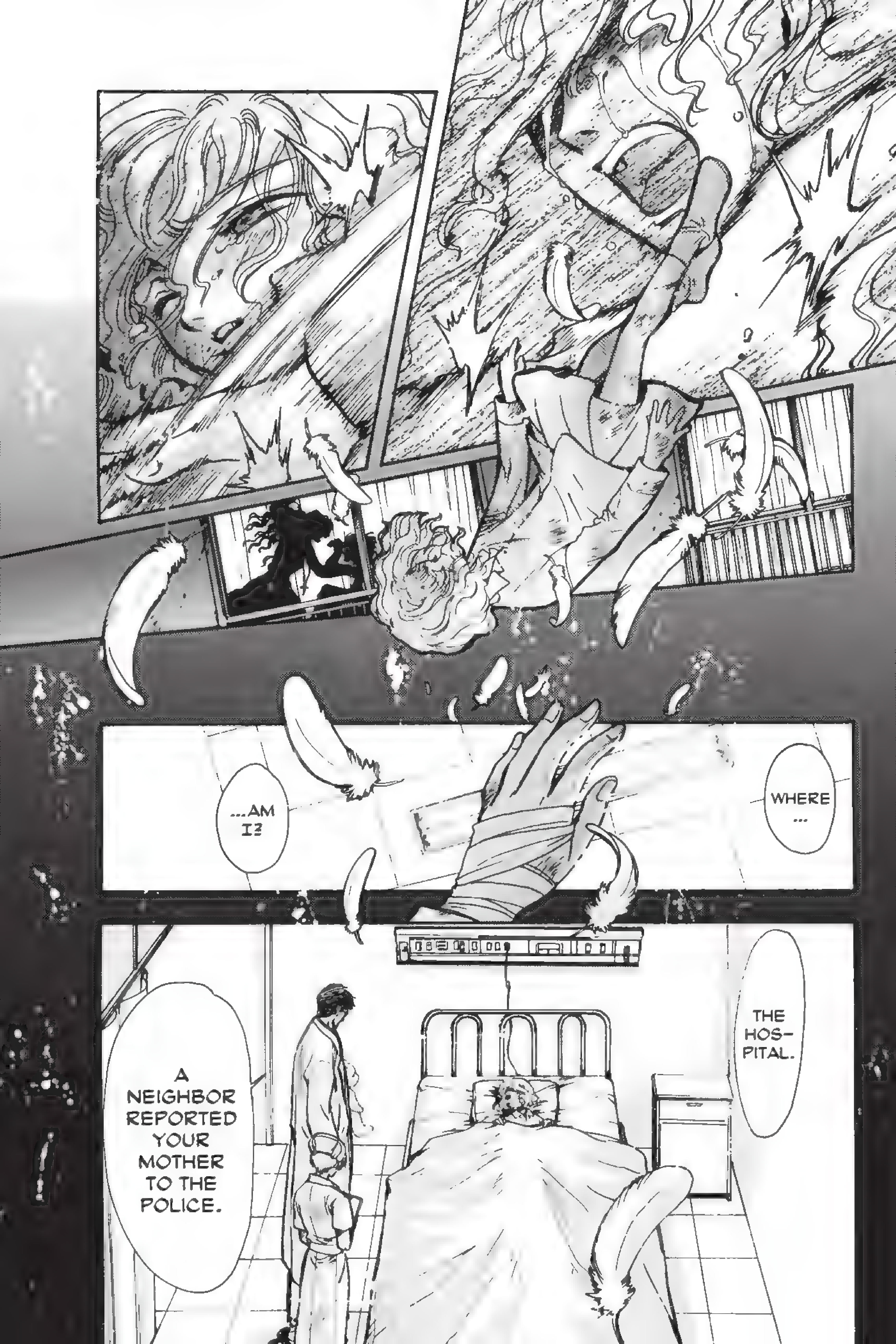

MAMA!
LOOK HOW PRETTY IT IS!
SMACK
YOU'RE THE DEVIL!

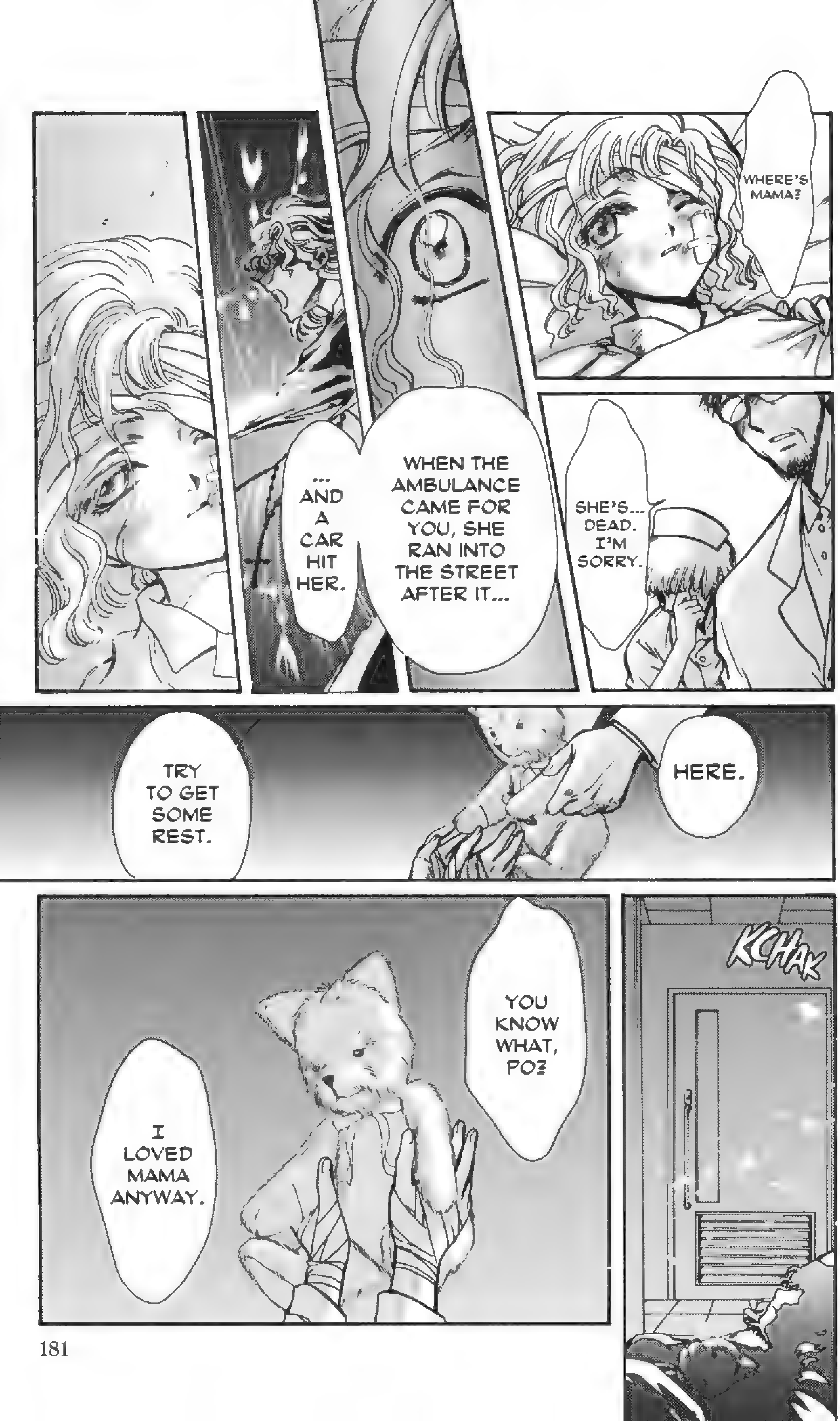

WHACK
WHACK
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
...WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO HIDE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
WHACK
WHACK
DON'T!
MAMA, PLEASE!
INRI
WHY ME?!
WHY DID I GIVE BIRTH TO A DEVIL LIKE YOU?!
I WISH YOU WERE DEAD!

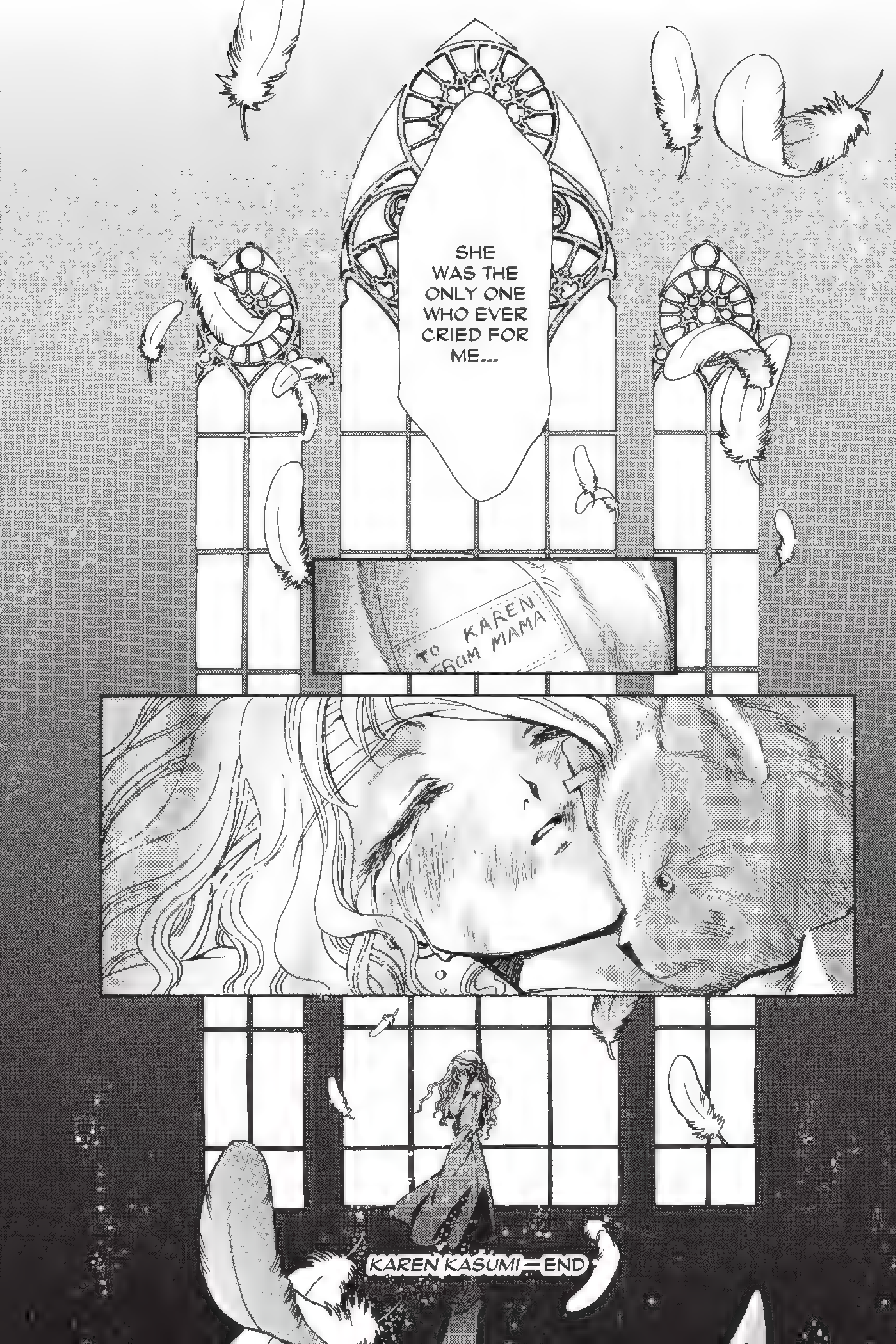

IF I DIED, WOULDN'T YOU BE SAD, MAMA?
WOULDN'T YOU CRY?
I WOULDN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR!
CLUTCH


YOUR DAUGHTER'S POWER WOULD BE OF GREAT USE TO US.
OUR ORGANIZATION WOULD NEED TO TAKE CUSTODY OF HER, OF COURSE, BUT—
I WON'T HEAR OF IT!
BUT, MA'AM!
SHE'S THE DEVIL!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT SHE MIGHT DO IF I WEREN'T WATCHING HER!
YOU WICKED GIRL!
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, THOSE WEIRD CULTS WOULDN'T CONSTANTLY BE HARASSING ME!
FWSH


BUT... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I ONLY MADE FIRE THAT ONE DAY.
I- I HAVEN'T DONE IT SINCE...
IF DOING BAD THINGS MAKES YOU THE DEVIL...
...DOES HITTING ME MAKE YOU THE DEVIL TOO?
AM I A BAD GIRL JUST BECAUSE I CAN DO IT?


WHERE ...
...AM I?
THE HOS-PITAL.
A NEIGHBOR REPORTED YOUR MOTHER TO THE POLICE.


WHERE'S MAMA?
SHE'S... DEAD. I'M SORRY.
WHEN THE AMBULANCE CAME FOR YOU, SHE RAN INTO THE STREET AFTER IT...
...AND A CAR HIT HER.
HERE.
TRY TO GET SOME REST.
KCHAK
YOU KNOW WHAT, PO?
I LOVED MAMA ANYWAY.


SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER CRIED FOR ME...
TO KAREN FROM MAMA
KAREN KASUMI —END

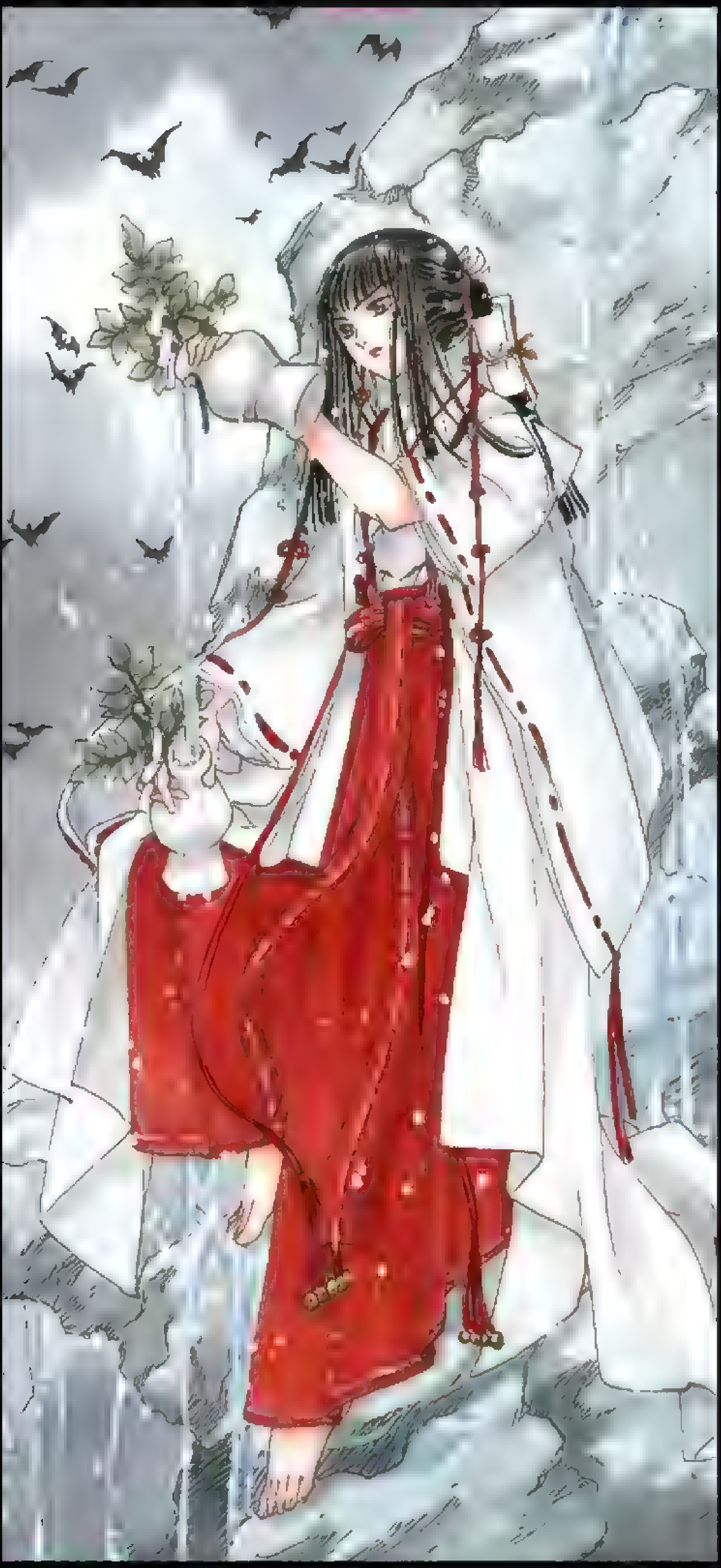
X

X

VOLUME 5, PART 2

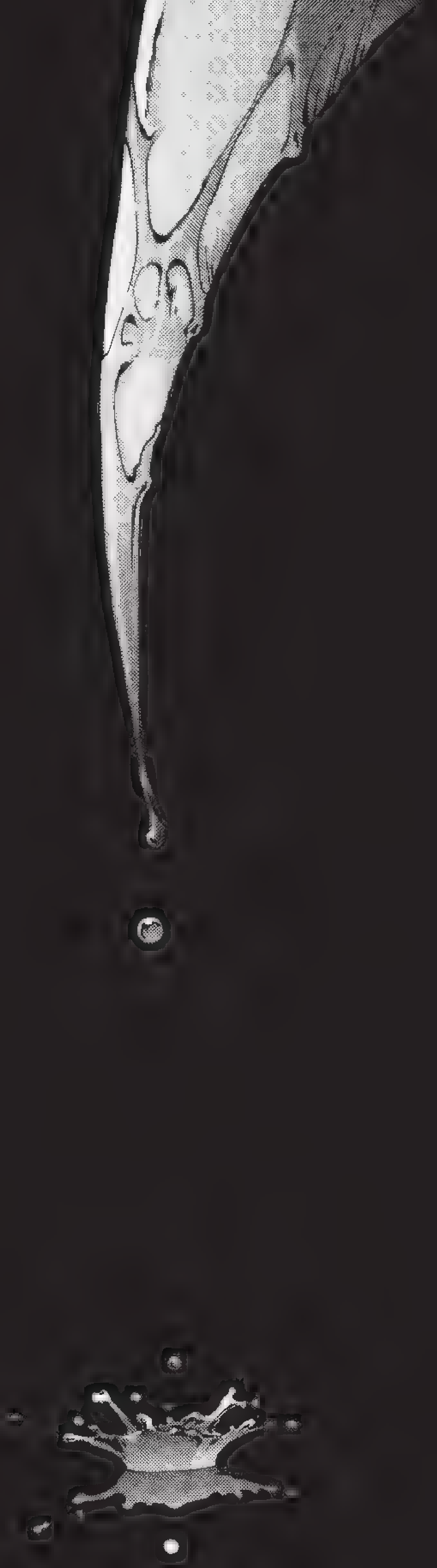
KEKKAI IV

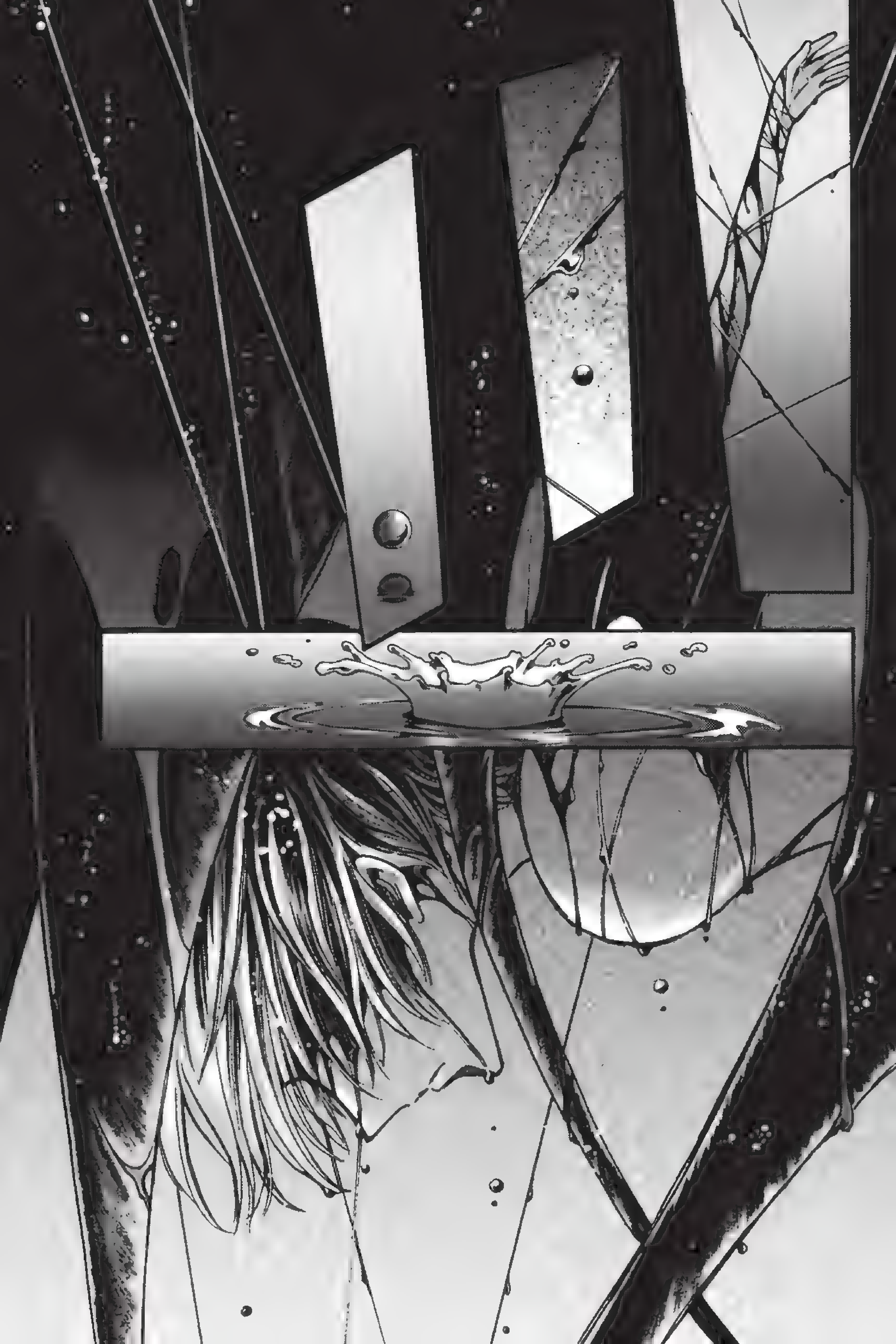
X

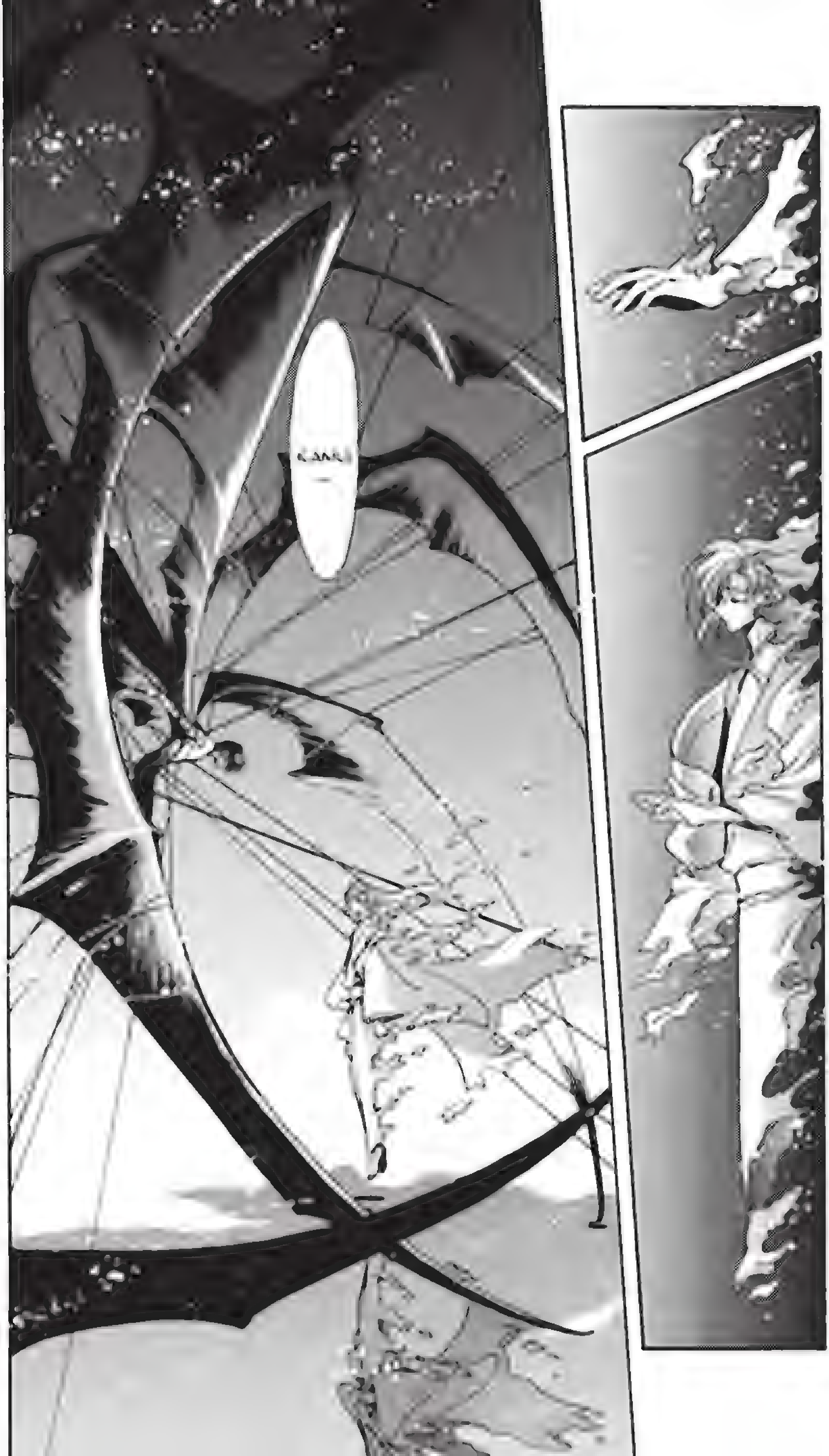


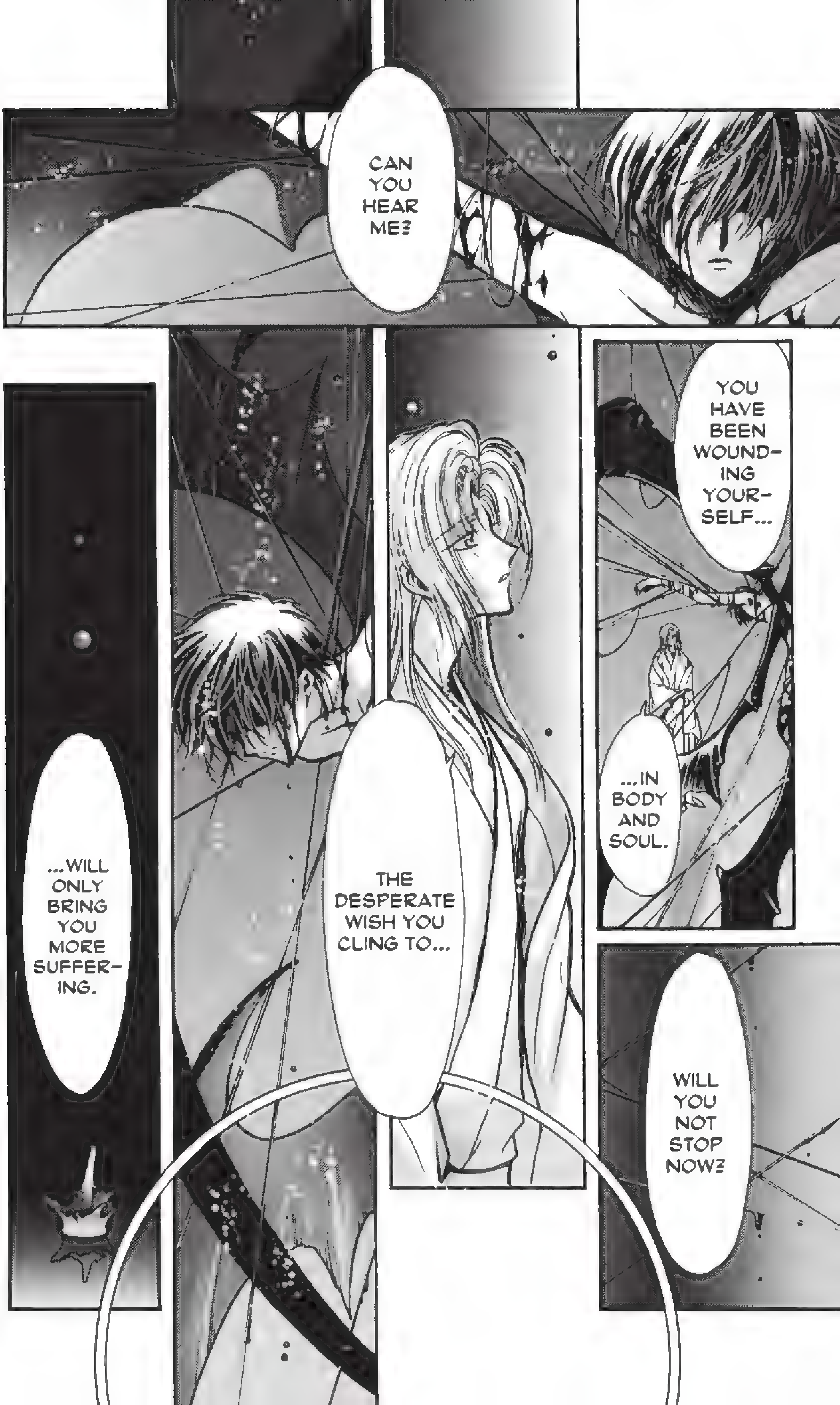
14 TEMPERANCE

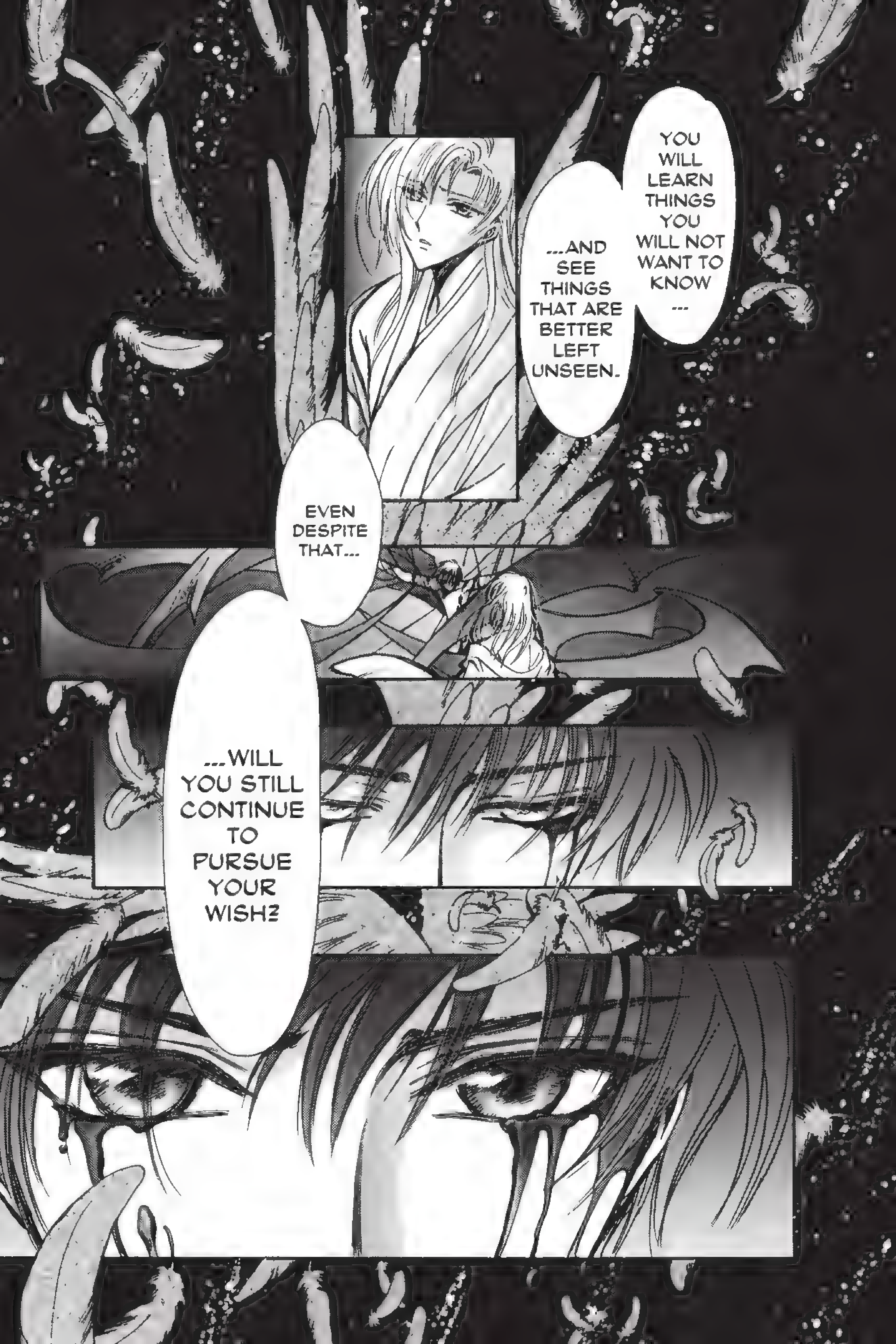
ס

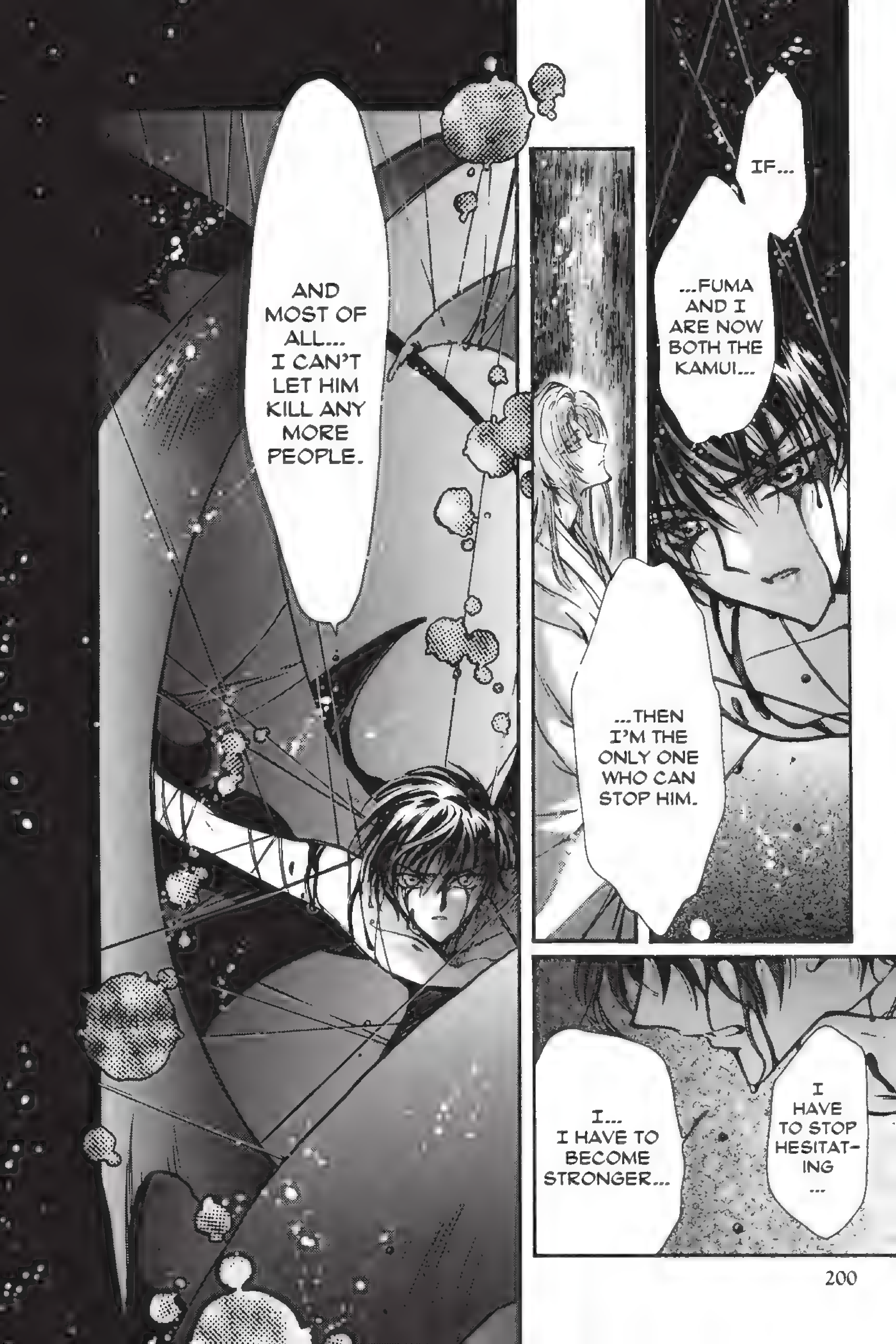


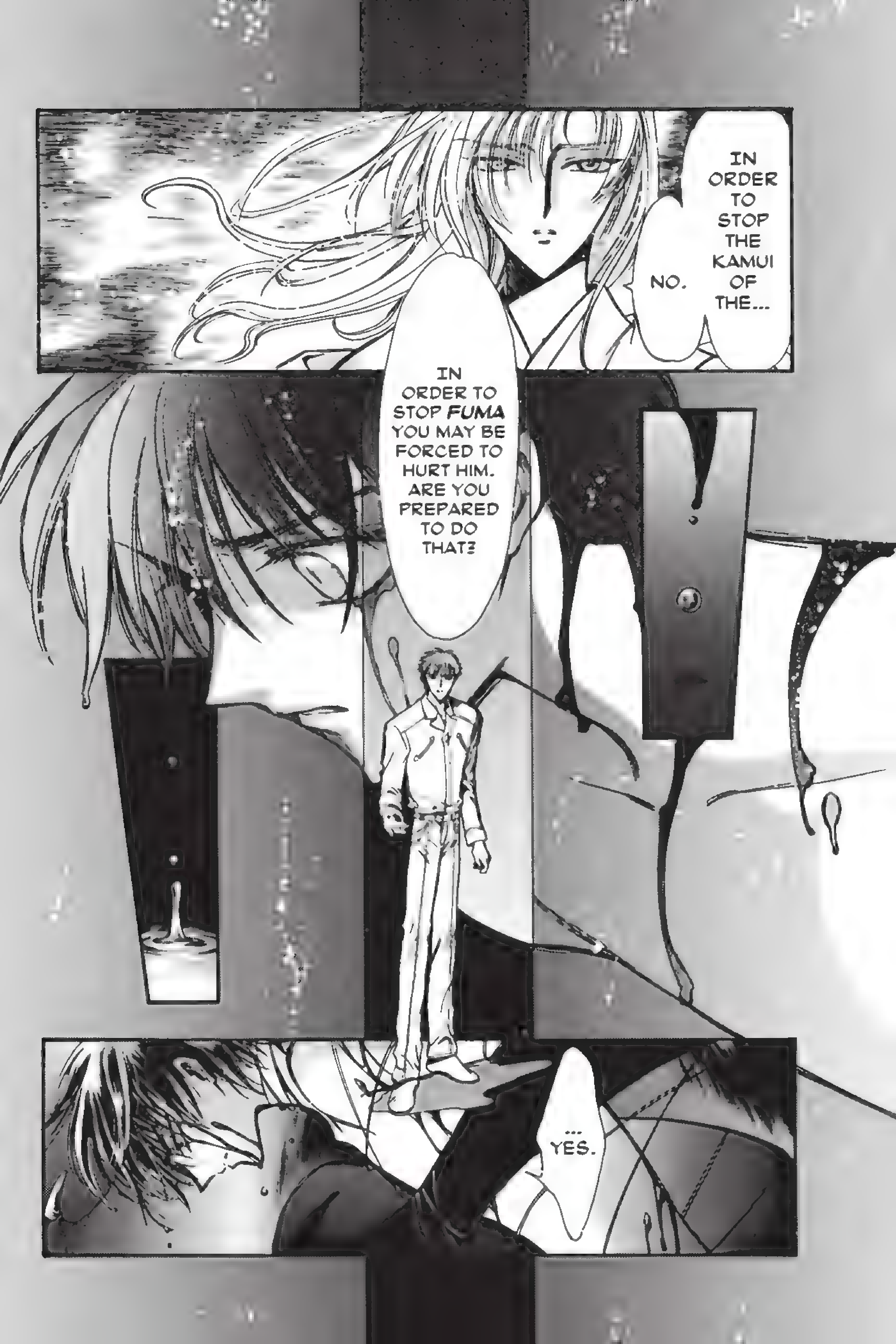


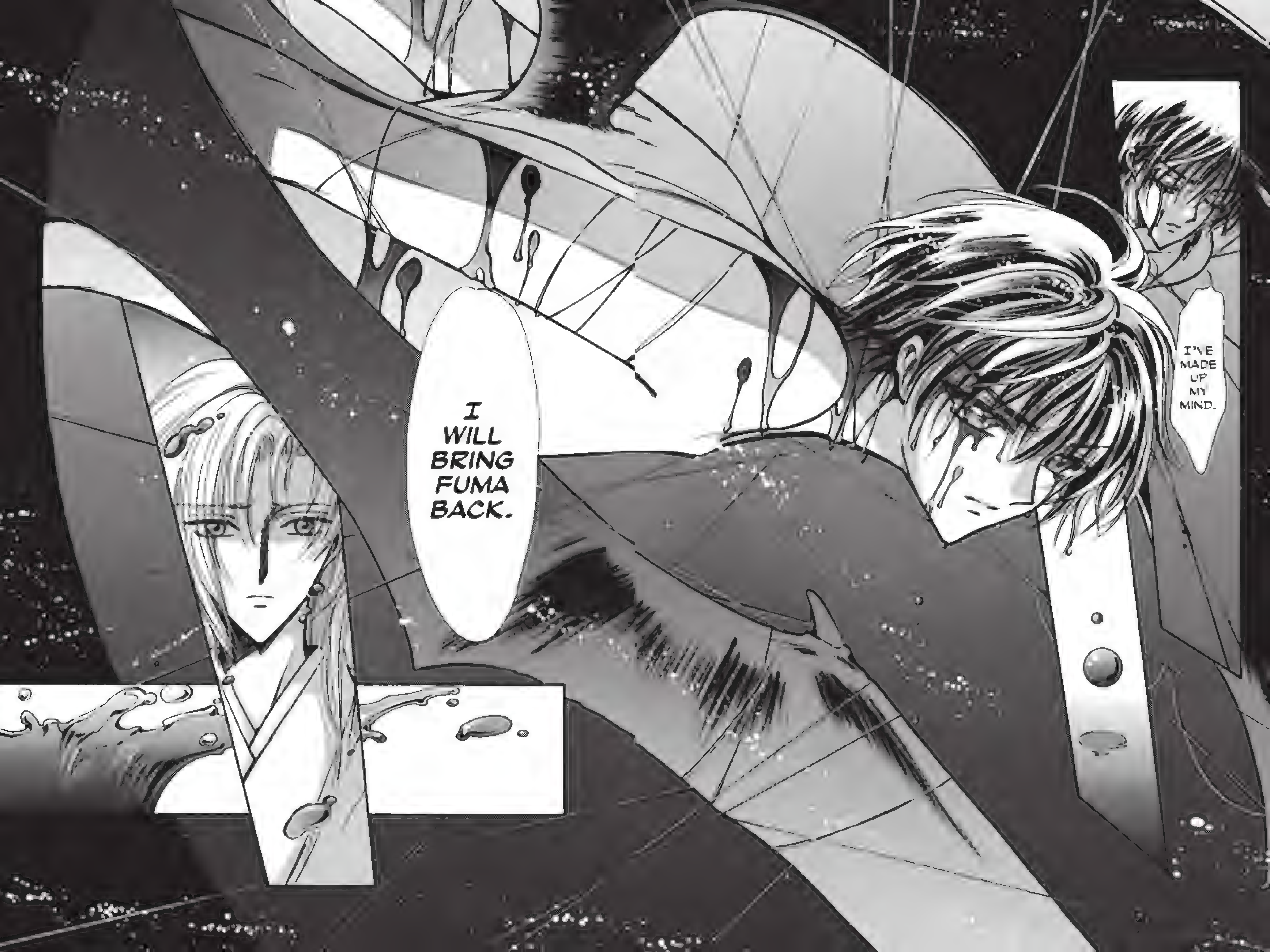

KANA
—

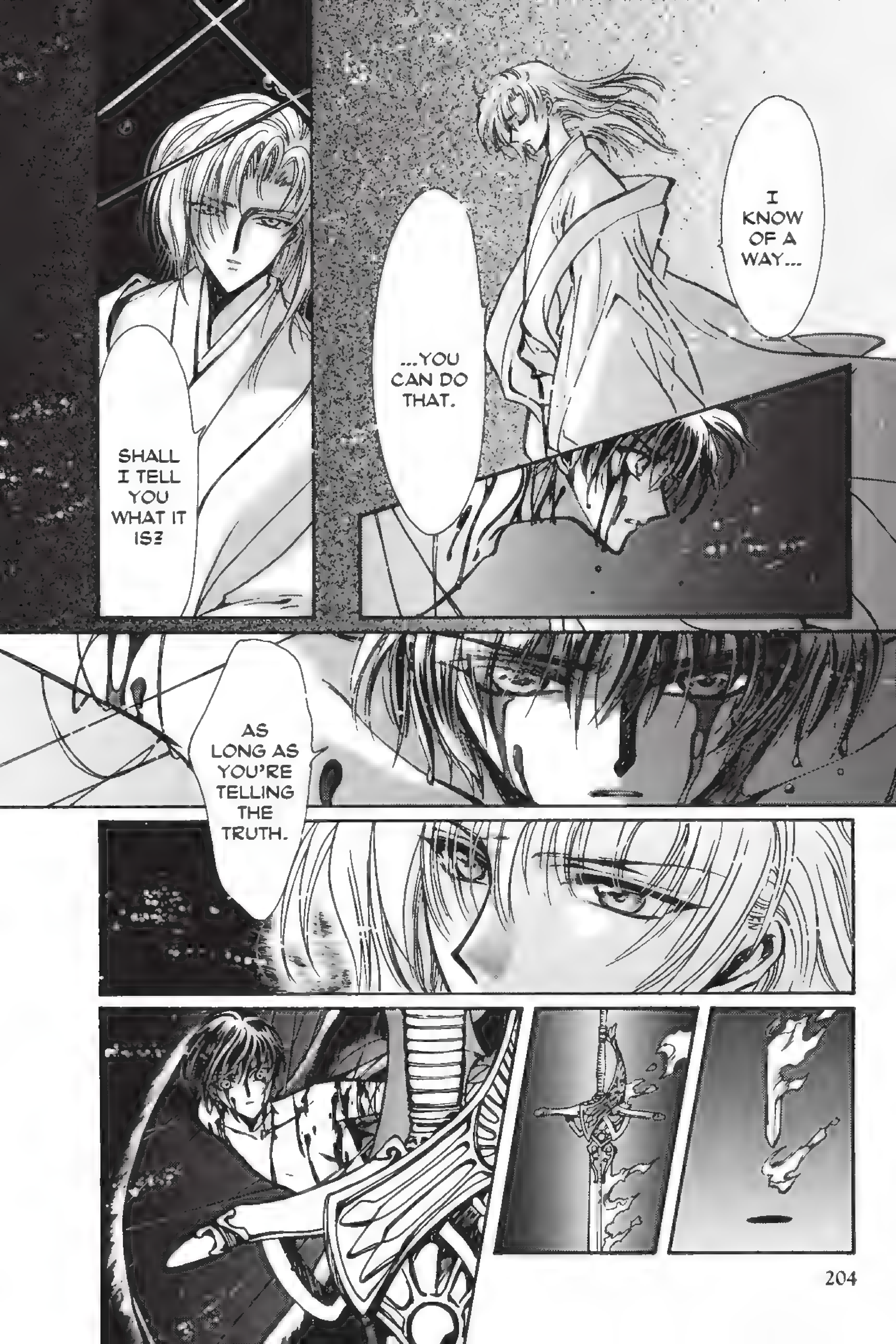

CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YOU HAVE BEEN WOUNDING YOURSELF...
...IN BODY AND SOUL.
THE DESPERATE WISH YOU CLING TO...
...WILL ONLY BRING YOU MORE SUFFERING.
WILL YOU NOT STOP NOW?

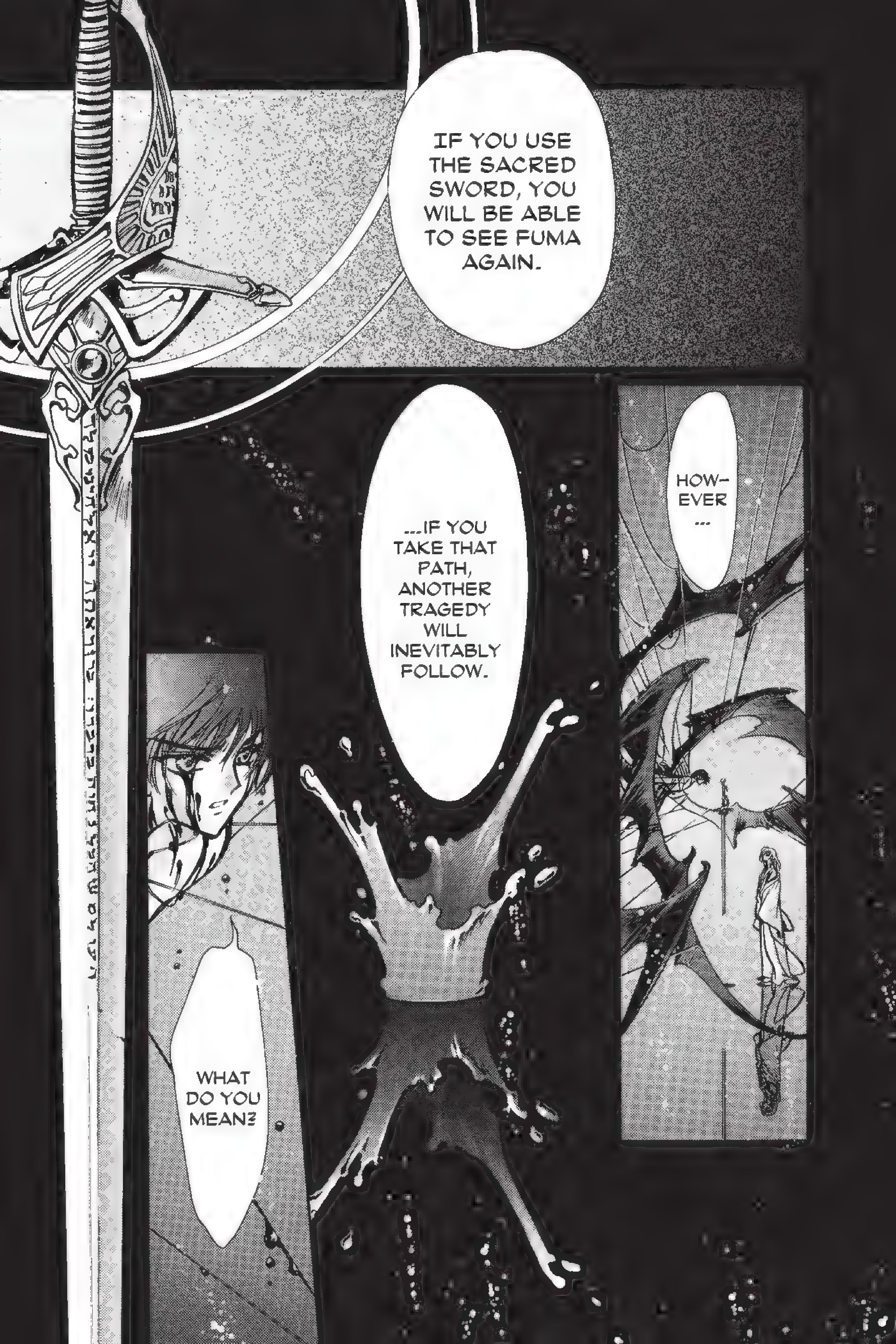

YOU WILL LEARN THINGS YOU WILL NOT WANT TO KNOW ...
...AND SEE THINGS THAT ARE BETTER LEFT UNSEEN.
EVEN DESPITE THAT...
...WILL YOU STILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE YOUR WISH?

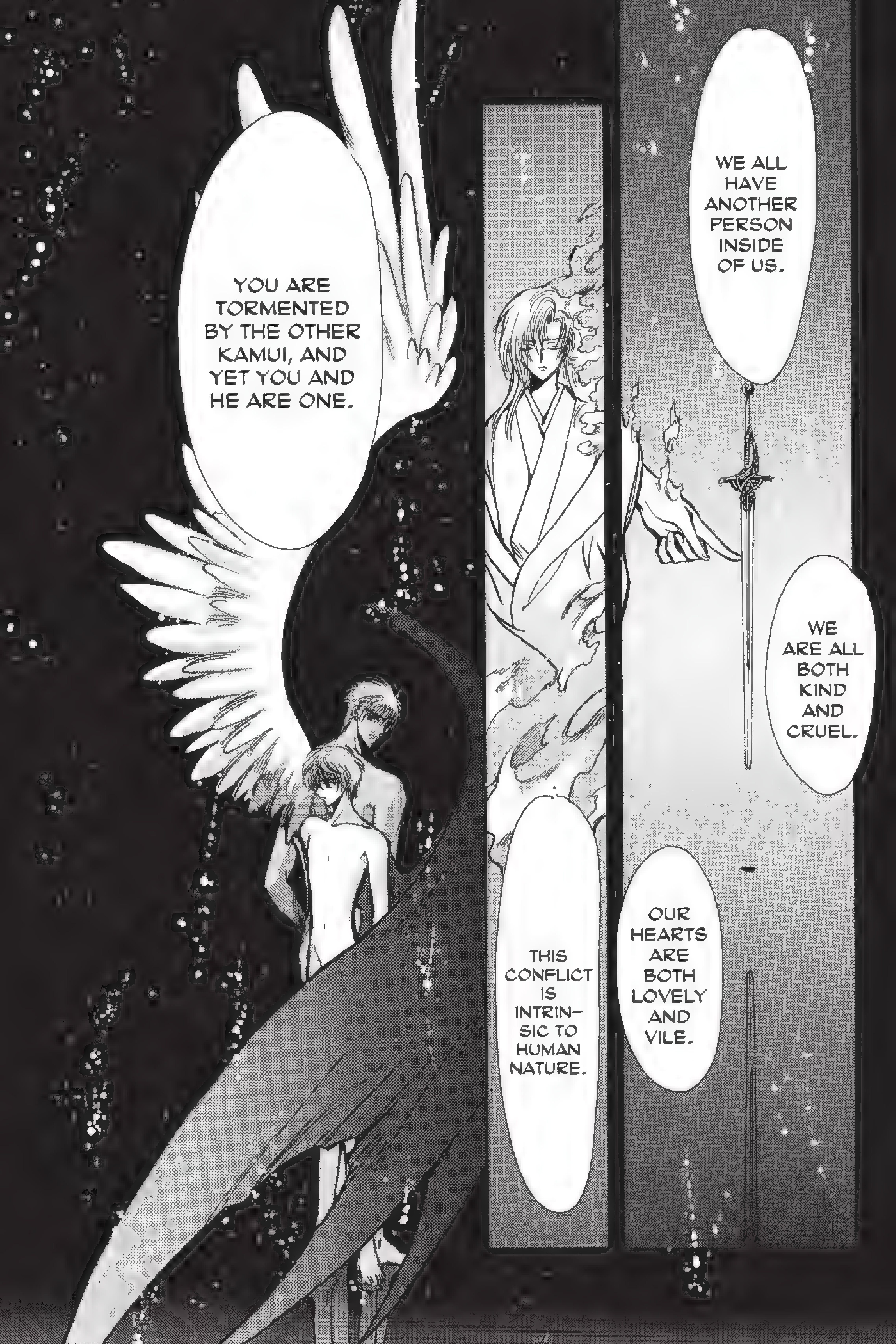

IF...
...FUMA AND I ARE NOW BOTH THE KAMUI...
...THEN I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP HIM.
I HAVE TO STOP HESITATING...
I... I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER...
AND MOST OF ALL... I CAN'T LET HIM KILL ANY MORE PEOPLE.

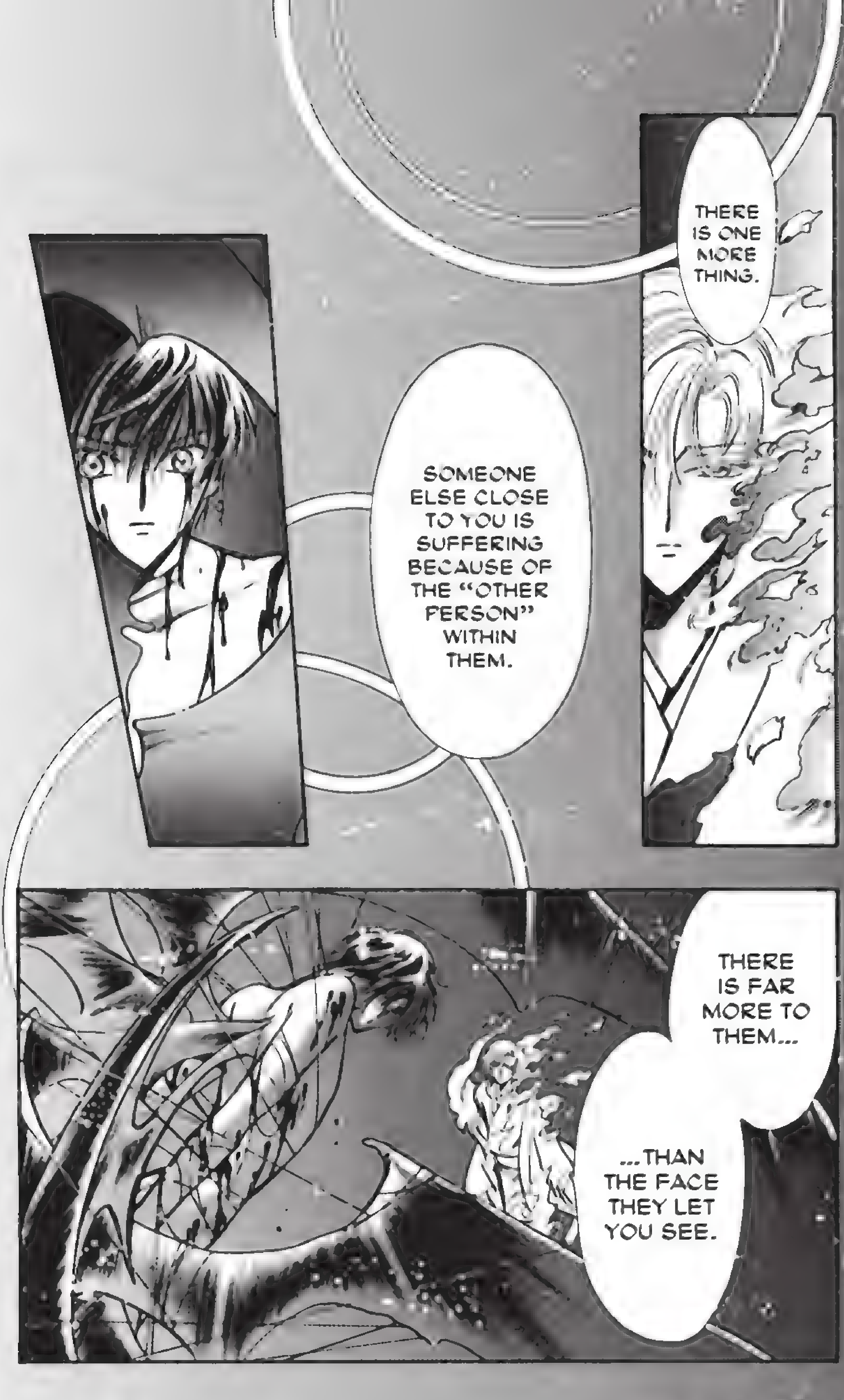

IN ORDER TO STOP THE KAMUI OF THE...
NO.
IN ORDER TO STOP *FUMA* YOU MAY BE FORCED TO HURT HIM. ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO THAT?
...YES.

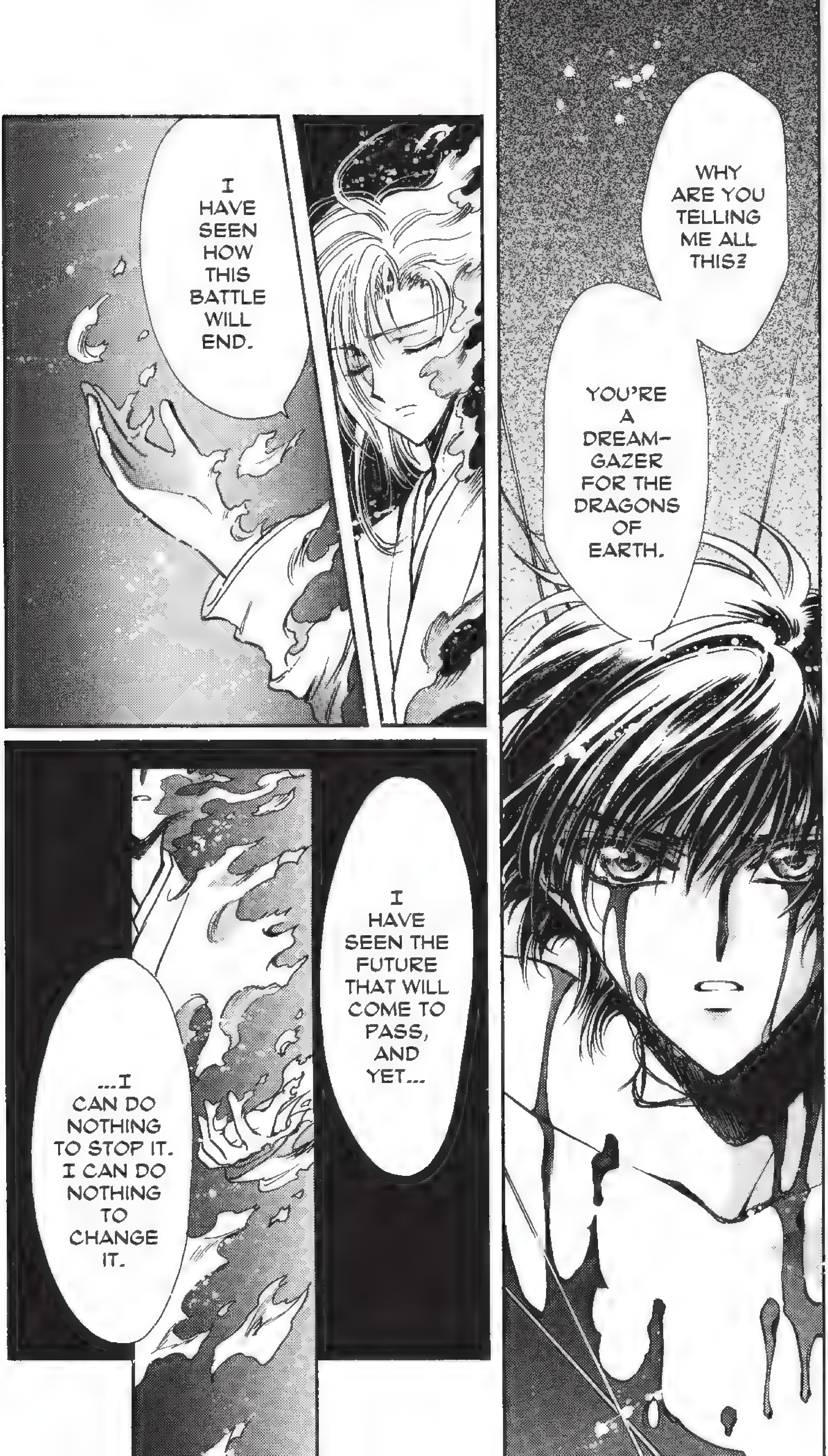

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
I WILL BRING FUMA BACK.

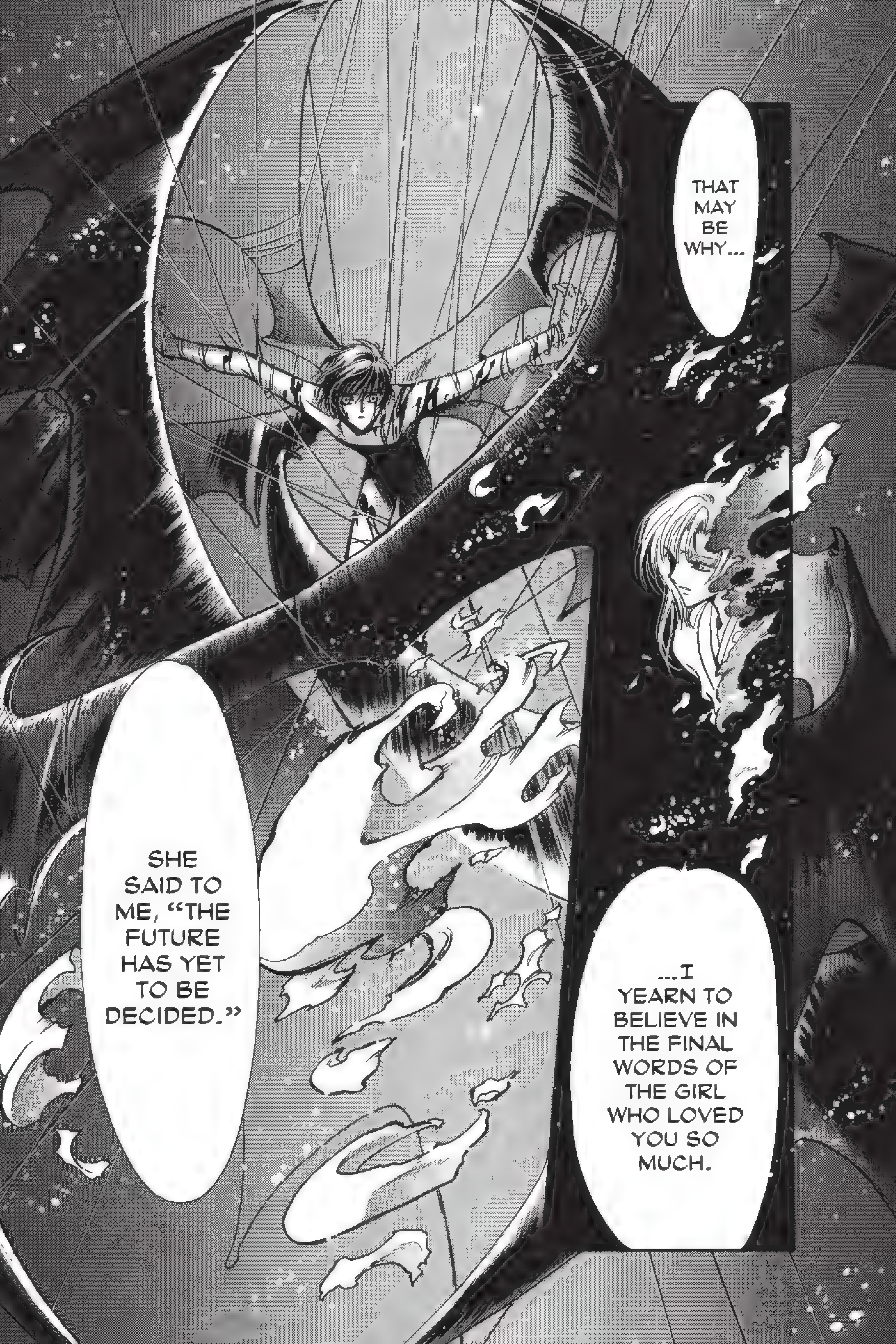

I KNOW OF A WAY...
SHALL I TELL YOU WHAT IT IS?
...YOU CAN DO THAT.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH.

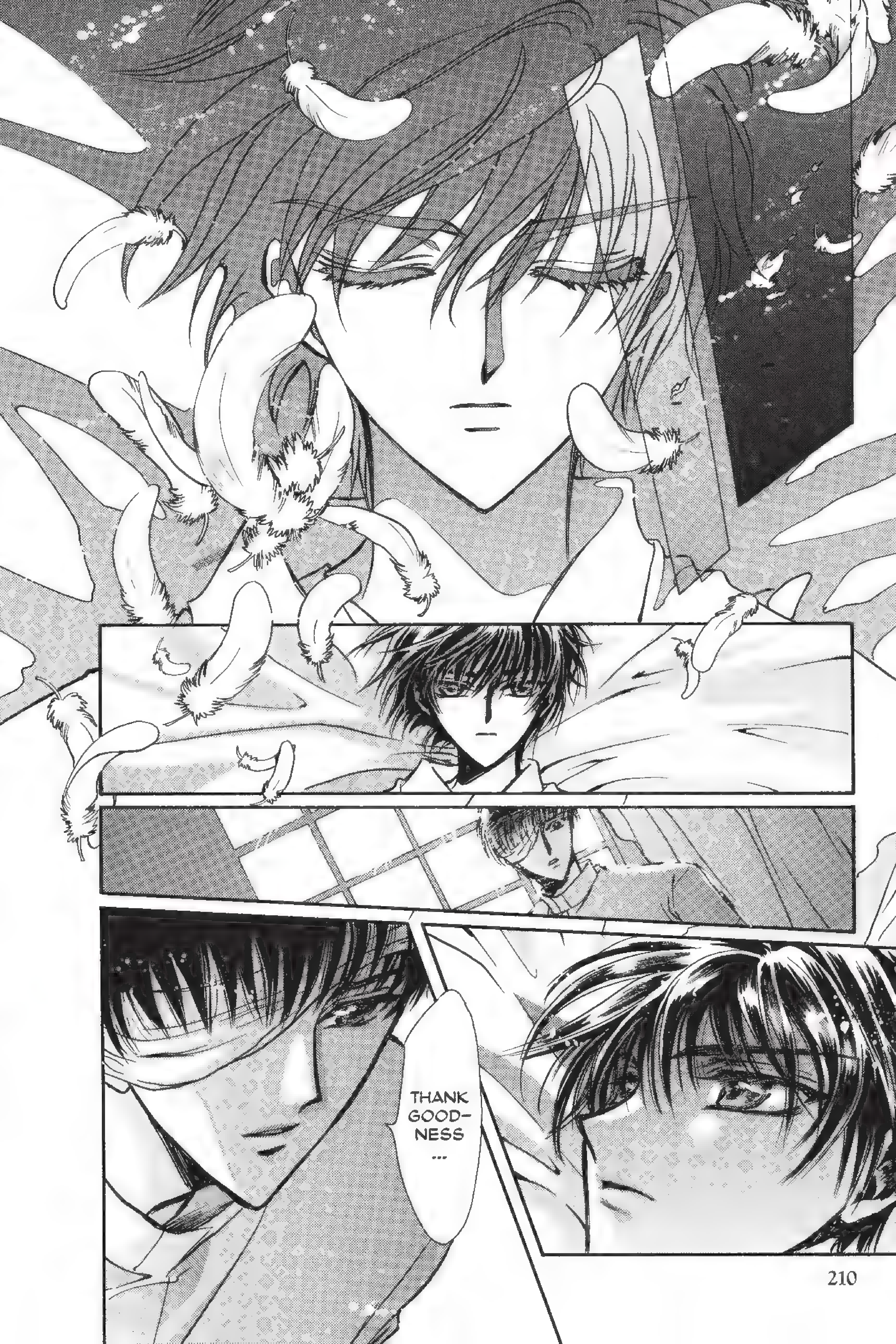

IF YOU USE THE SACRED SWORD, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FUMA AGAIN.
HOW-EVER ...
...IF YOU TAKE THAT PATH, ANOTHER TRAGEDY WILL INEVITABLY FOLLOW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

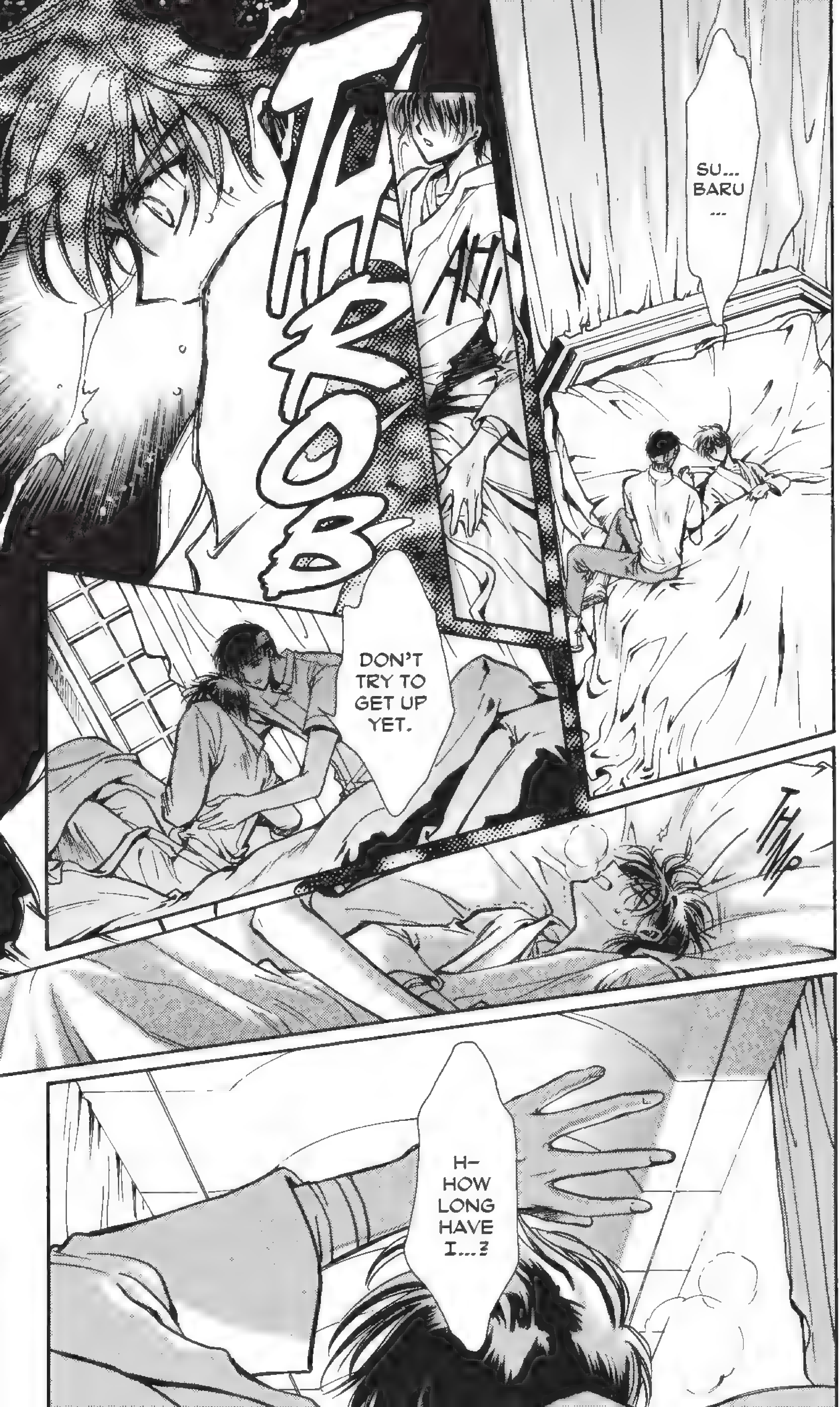

WE ALL HAVE ANOTHER PERSON INSIDE OF US.
WE ARE ALL BOTH KIND AND CRUEL.
OUR HEARTS ARE BOTH LOVELY AND VILE.
THIS CONFLICT IS INTRINSIC TO HUMAN NATURE.
YOU ARE TORMENTED BY THE OTHER KAMUI, AND YET YOU AND HE ARE ONE.

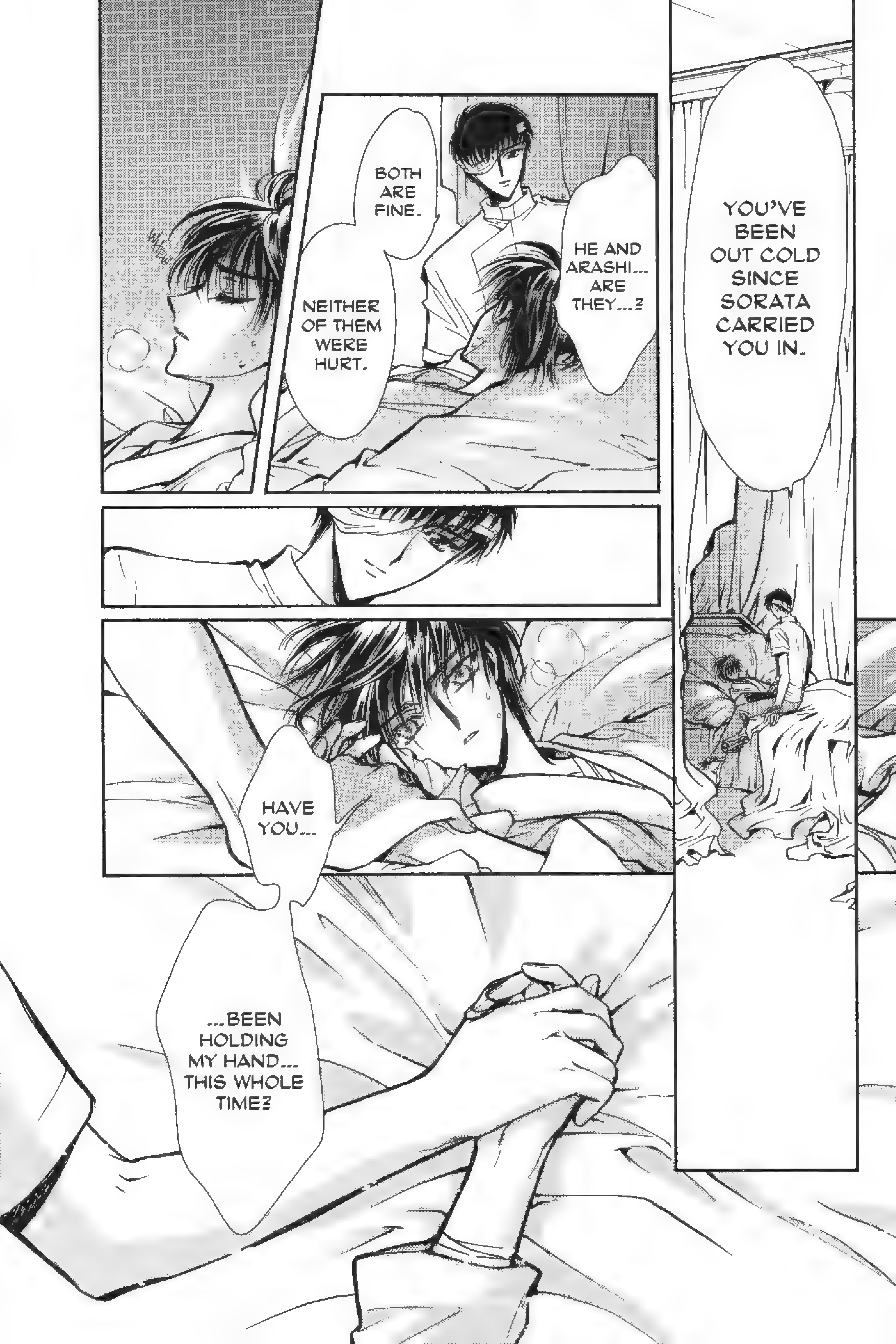

THERE IS ONE MORE THING.
SOMEONE ELSE CLOSE TO YOU IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE "OTHER PERSON" WITHIN THEM.
THERE IS FAR MORE TO THEM...
...THAN THE FACE THEY LET YOU SEE.

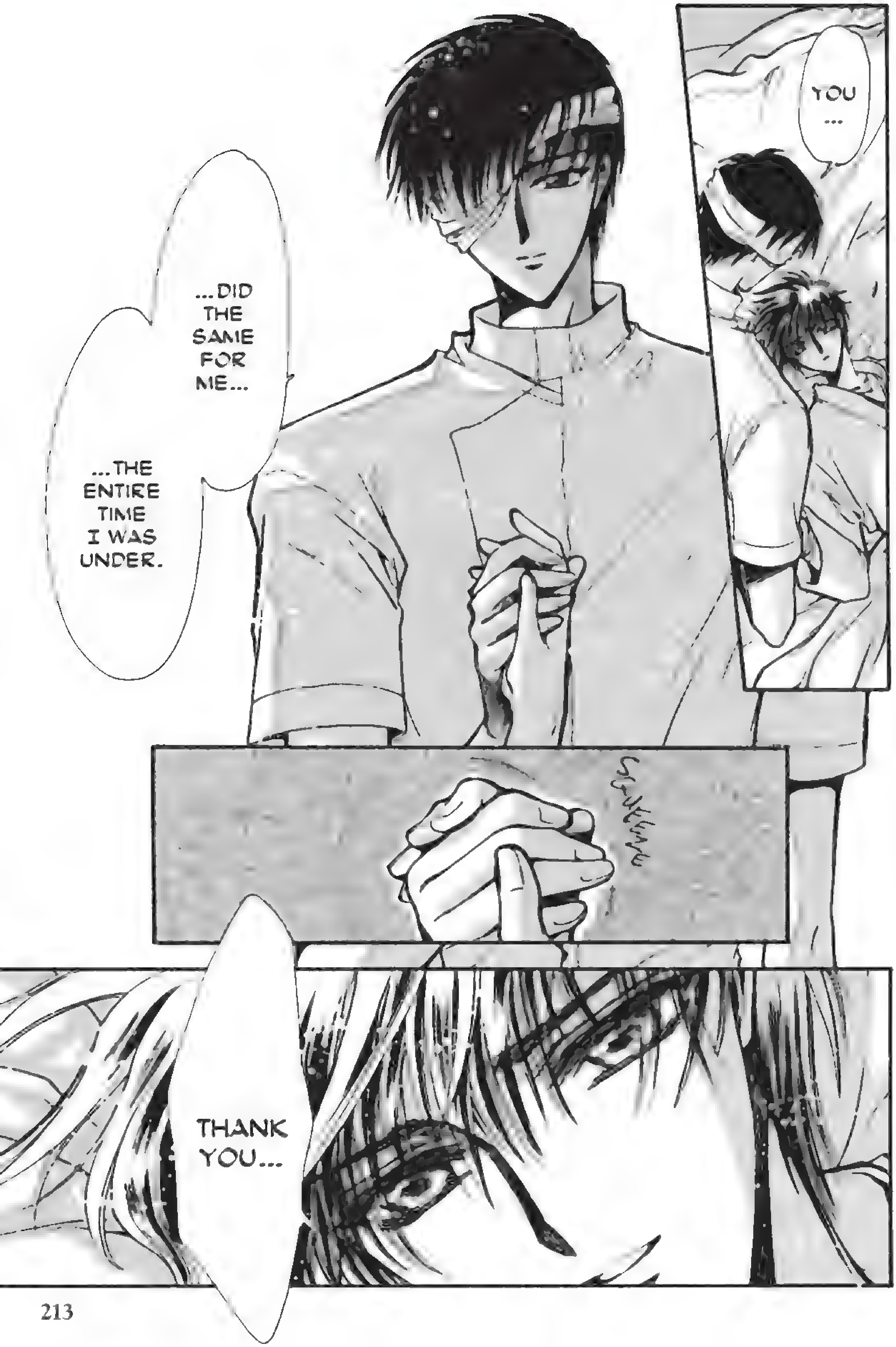

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
YOU'RE A DREAM-GAZER FOR THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
I HAVE SEEN HOW THIS BATTLE WILL END.
I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE THAT WILL COME TO PASS, AND YET...
...I CAN DO NOTHING TO STOP IT. I CAN DO NOTHING TO CHANGE IT.

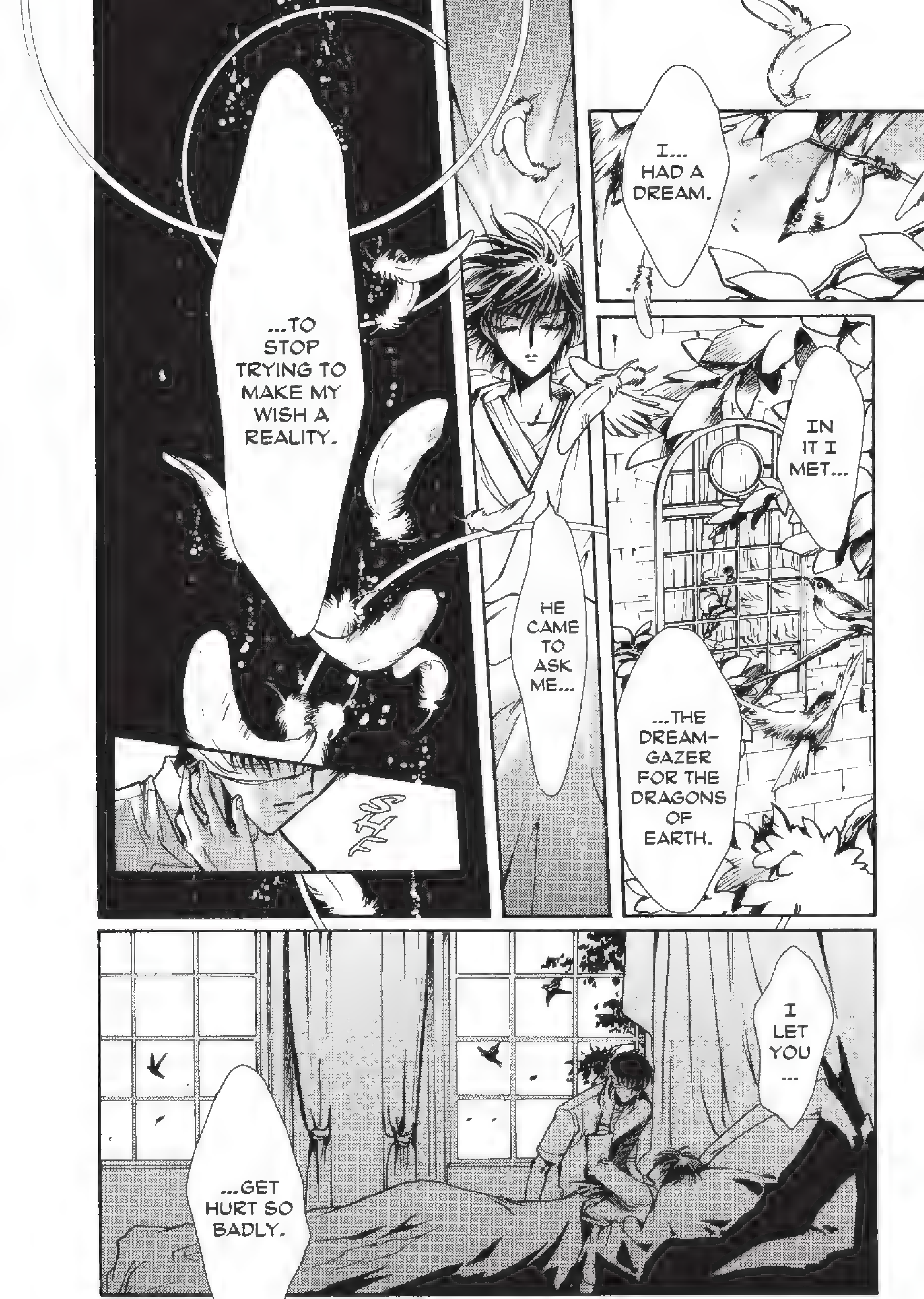

THAT MAY BE WHY...
...I YEARN TO BELIEVE IN THE FINAL WORDS OF THE GIRL WHO LOVED YOU SO MUCH.
SHE SAID TO ME, "THE FUTURE HAS YET TO BE DECIDED."

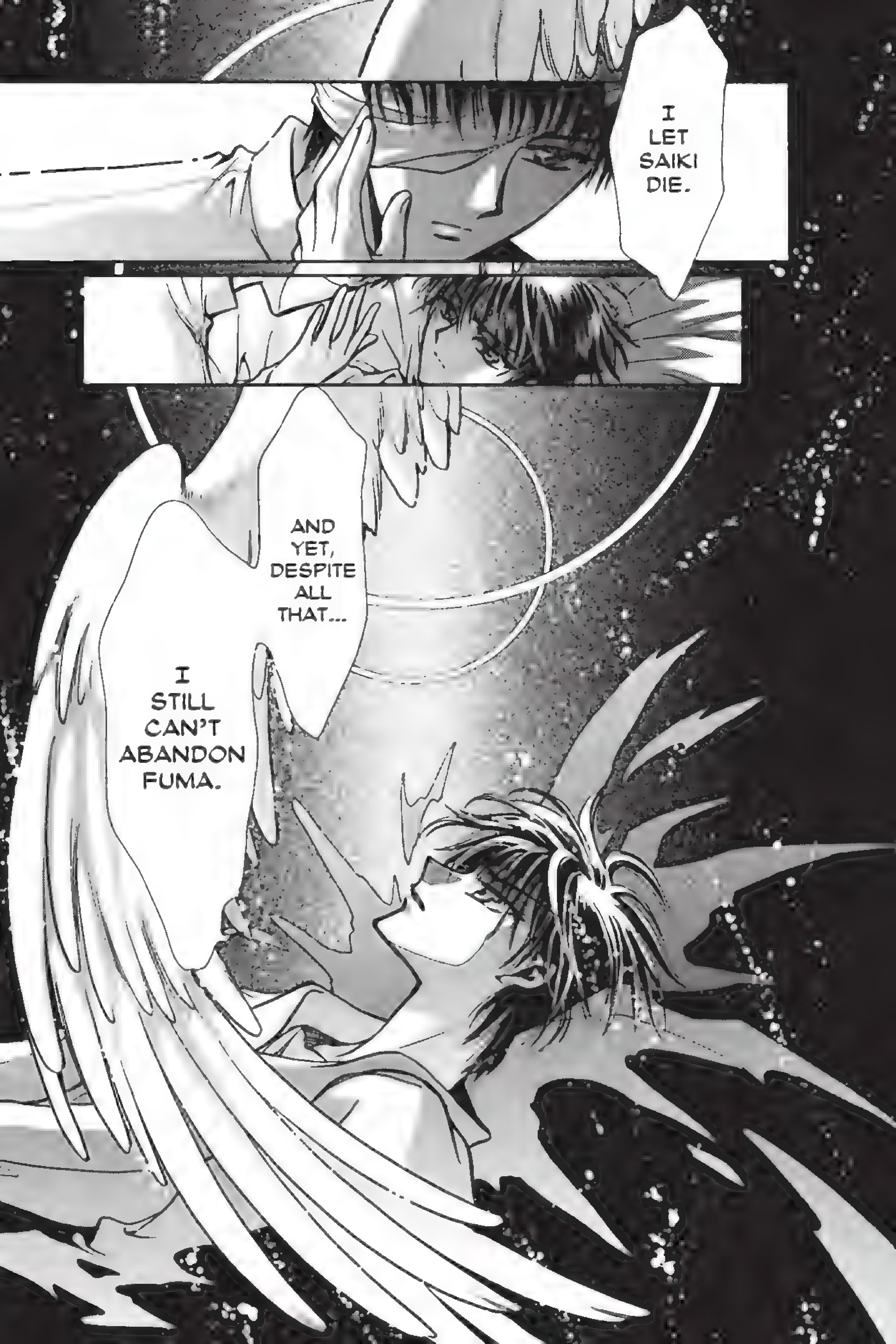

THANK GOODNESS...

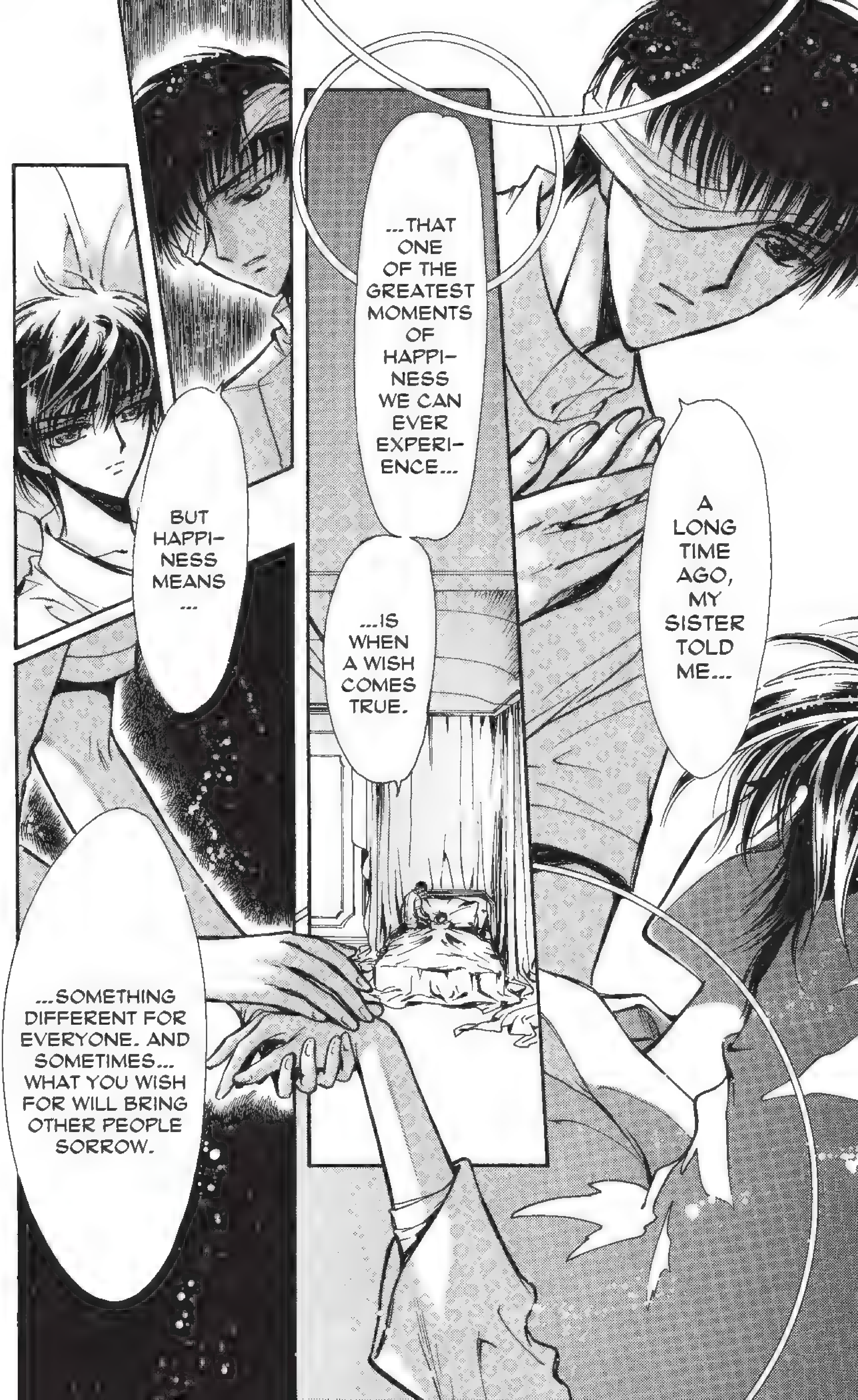

SU... BARU ...
AH
THROB
DON'T TRY TO GET UP YET.
THMP
H- HOW LONG HAVE I...?

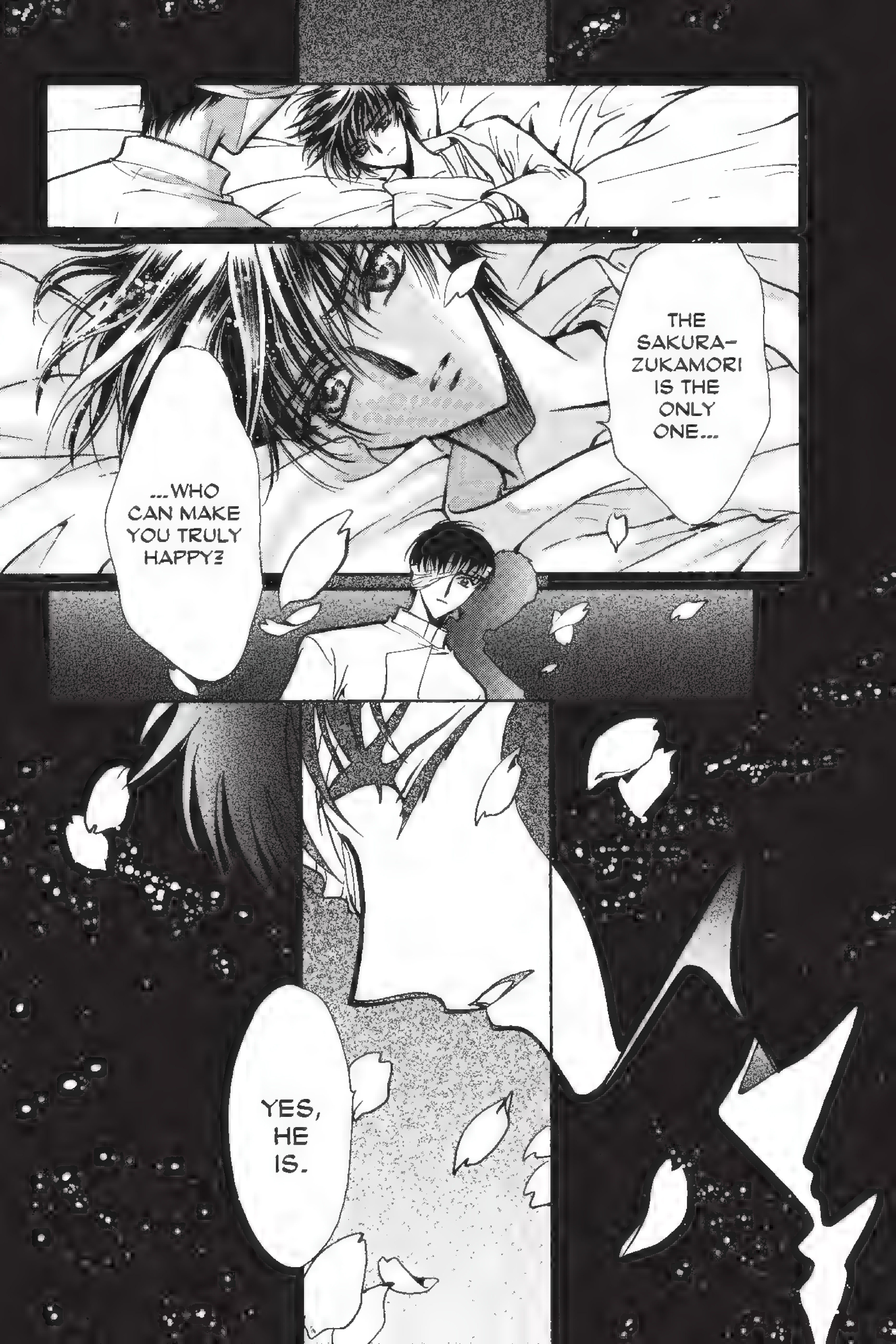

YOU'VE BEEN OUT COLD SINCE SORATA CARRIED YOU IN.
HE AND ARASHI... ARE THEY...?
BOTH ARE FINE.
NEITHER OF THEM WERE HURT.
WHEW
HAVE YOU...
...BEEN HOLDING MY HAND... THIS WHOLE TIME?

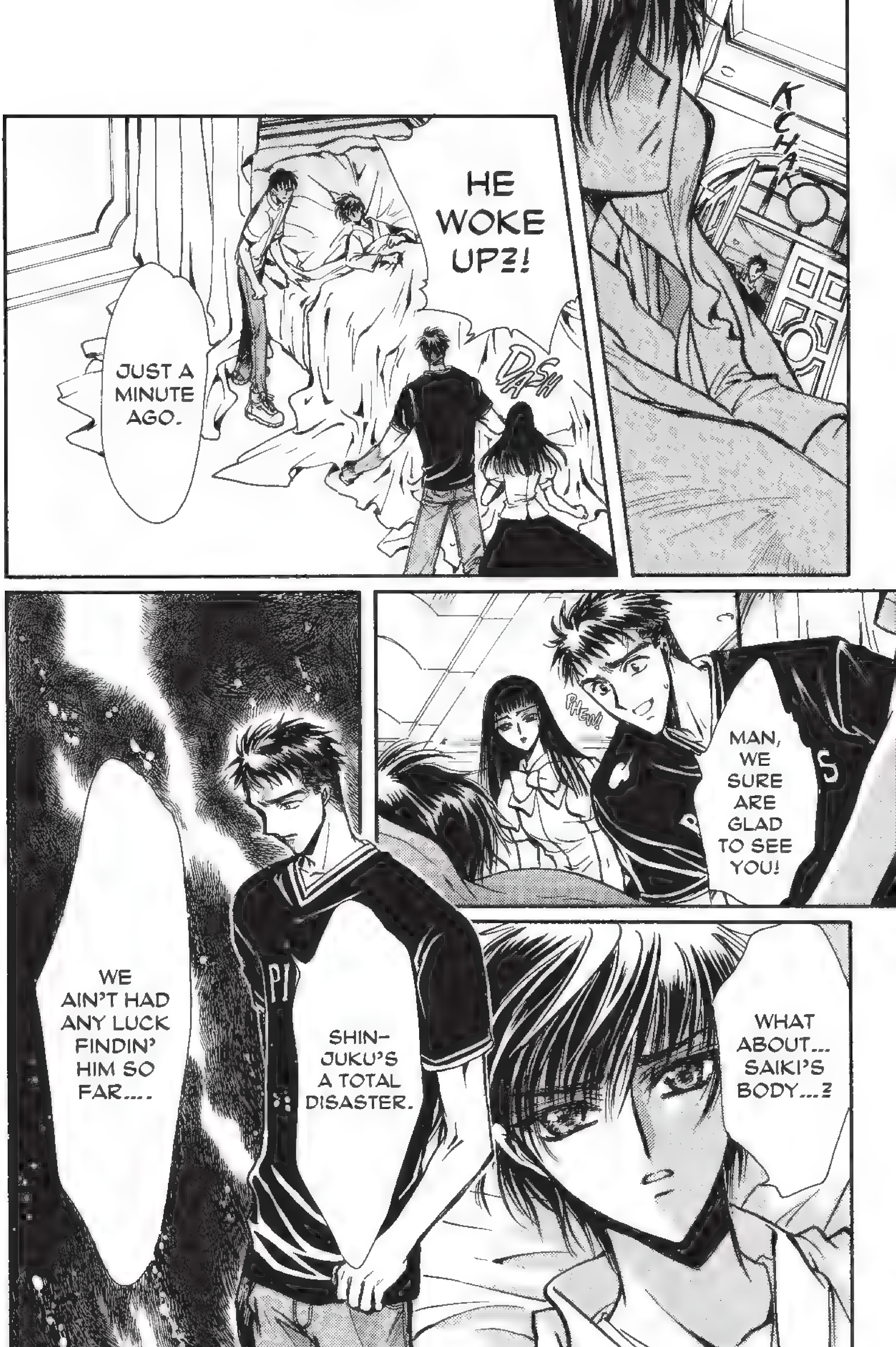

YOU ...
...DID THE SAME FOR ME...
...THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS UNDER.
THANK YOU...

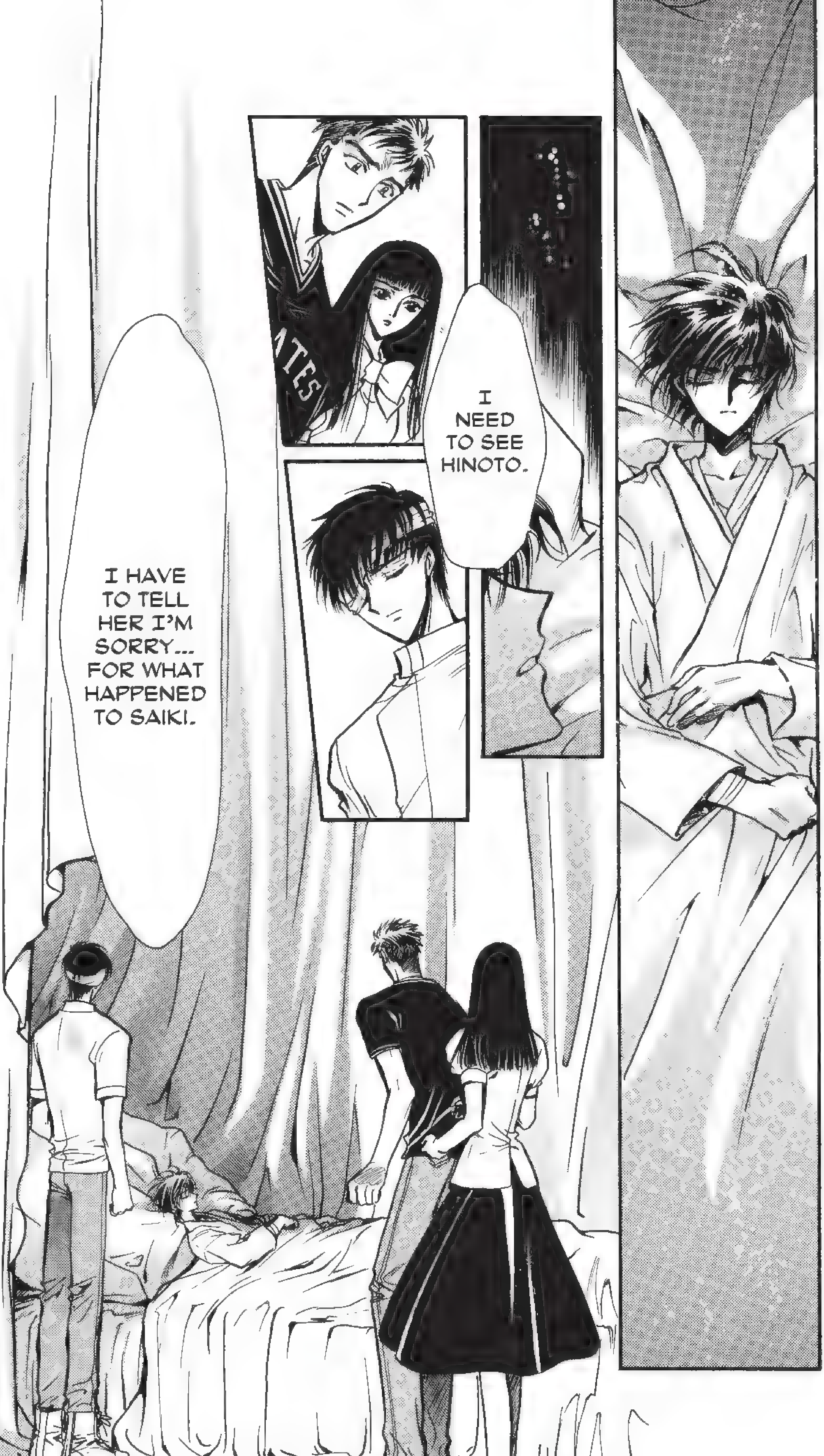

I... HAD A DREAM.
IN IT I MET...
...THE DREAM-GAZER FOR THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
HE CAME TO ASK ME...
...TO STOP TRYING TO MAKE MY WISH A REALITY.
SHF
I LET YOU...
...GET HURT SO BADLY.

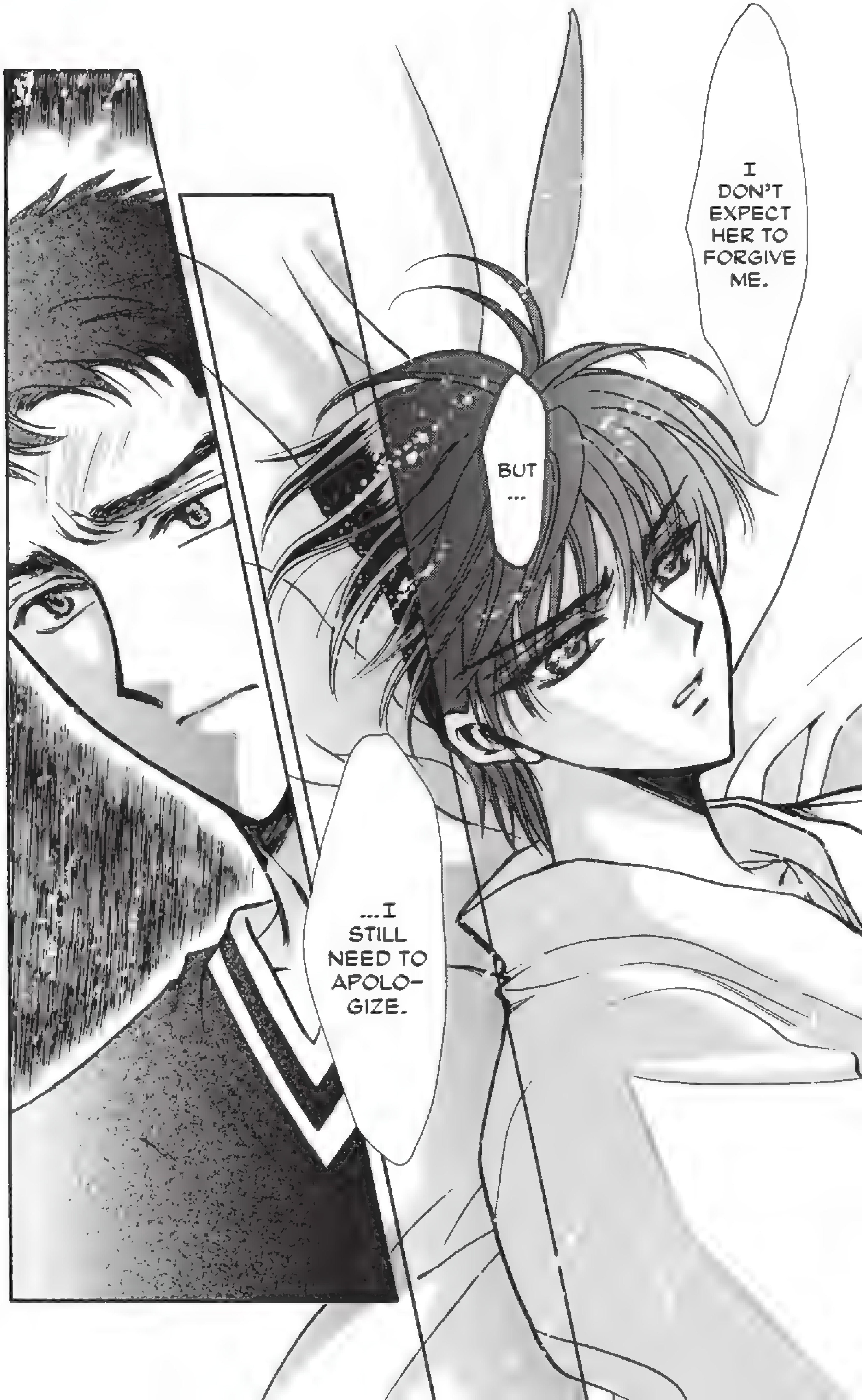

I LET SAIKI DIE.
AND YET, DESPITE ALL THAT...
I STILL CAN'T ABANDON FUMA.

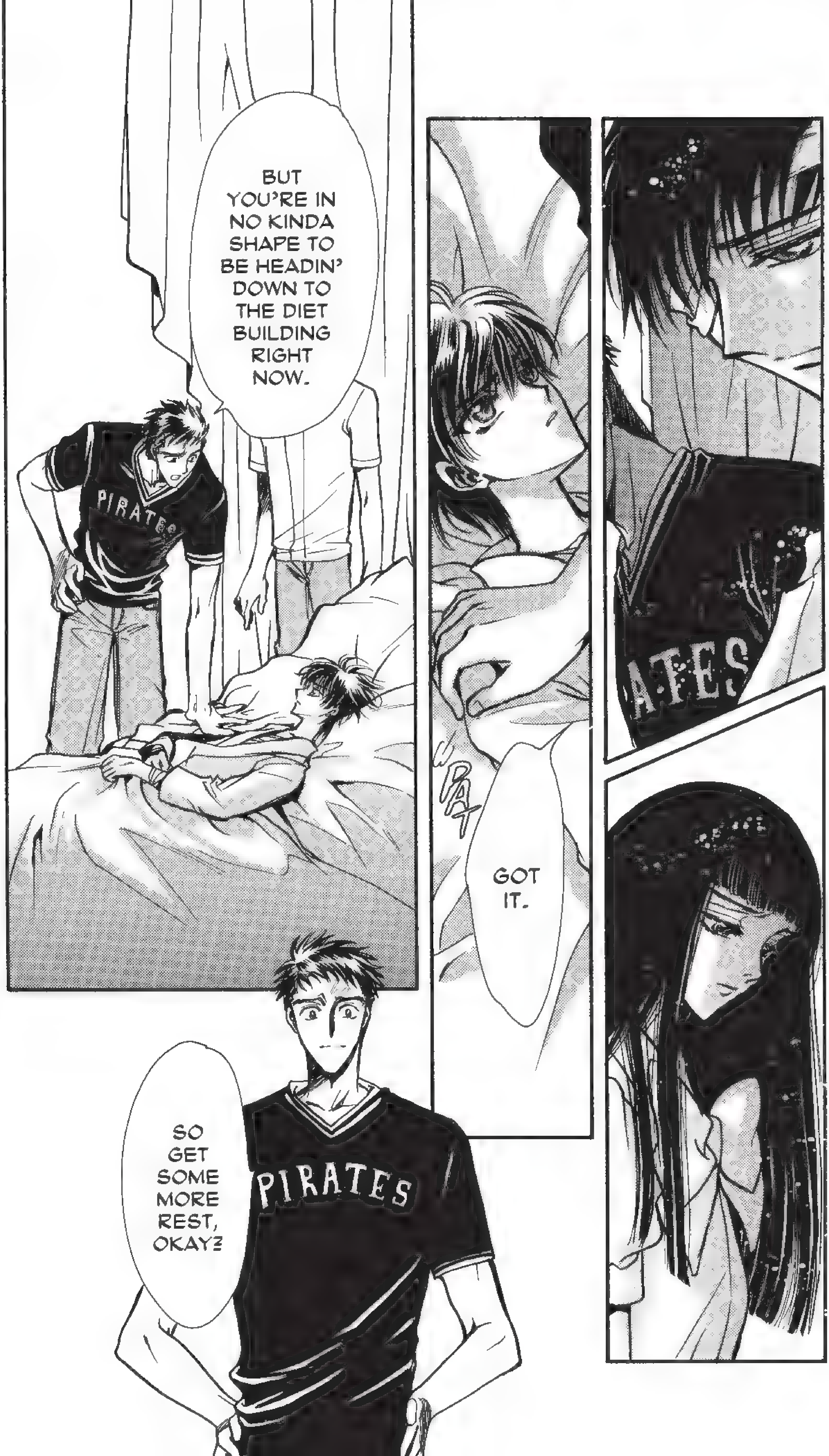

A LONG TIME AGO, MY SISTER TOLD ME...
...THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS WE CAN EVER EXPERIENCE...
...IS WHEN A WISH COMES TRUE.
BUT HAPPINESS MEANS...
...SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE. AND SOMETIMES... WHAT YOU WISH FOR WILL BRING OTHER PEOPLE SORROW.

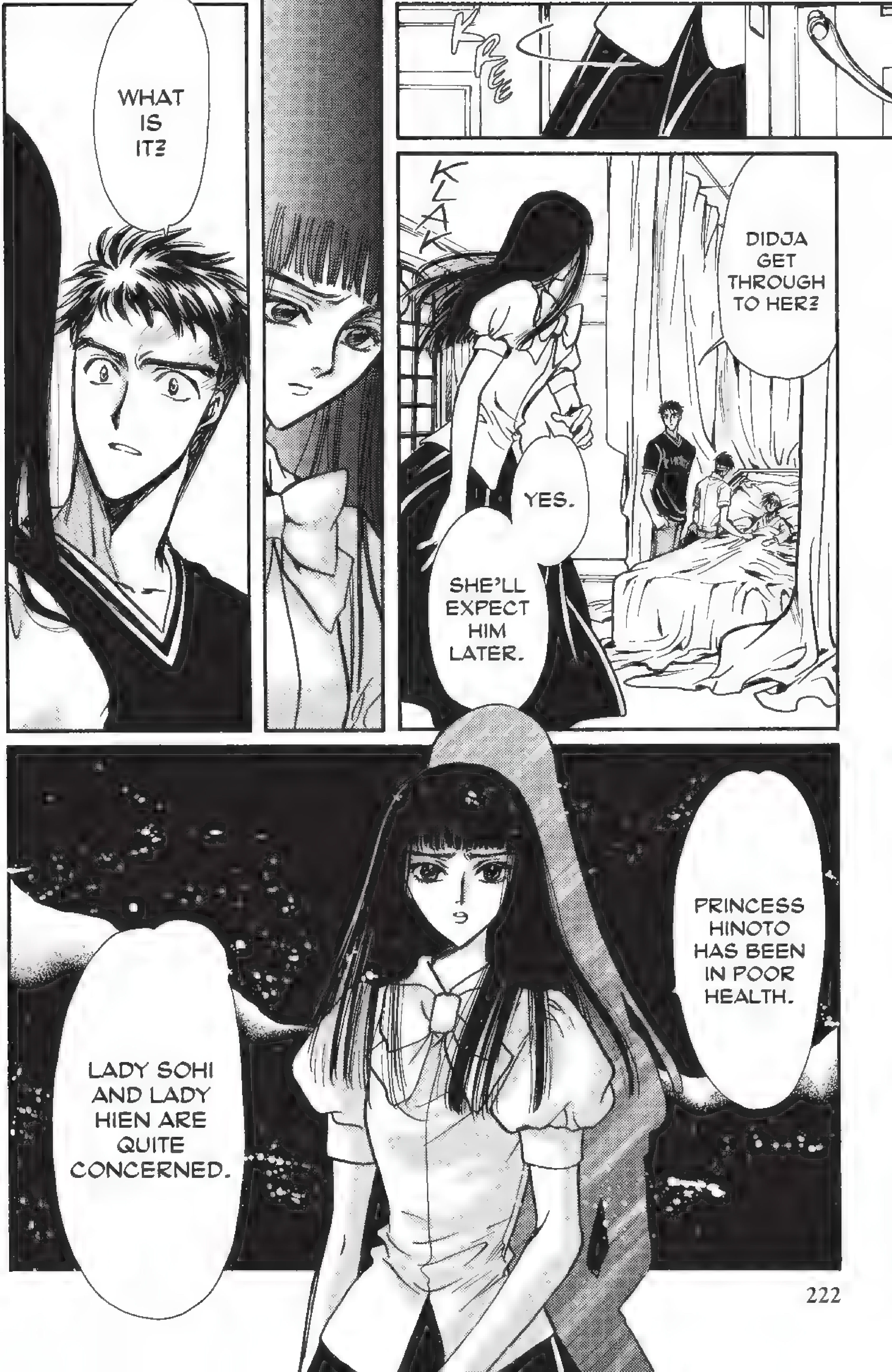

THE SAKURA-ZUKAMORI IS THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO CAN MAKE YOU TRULY HAPPY?
YES, HE IS.

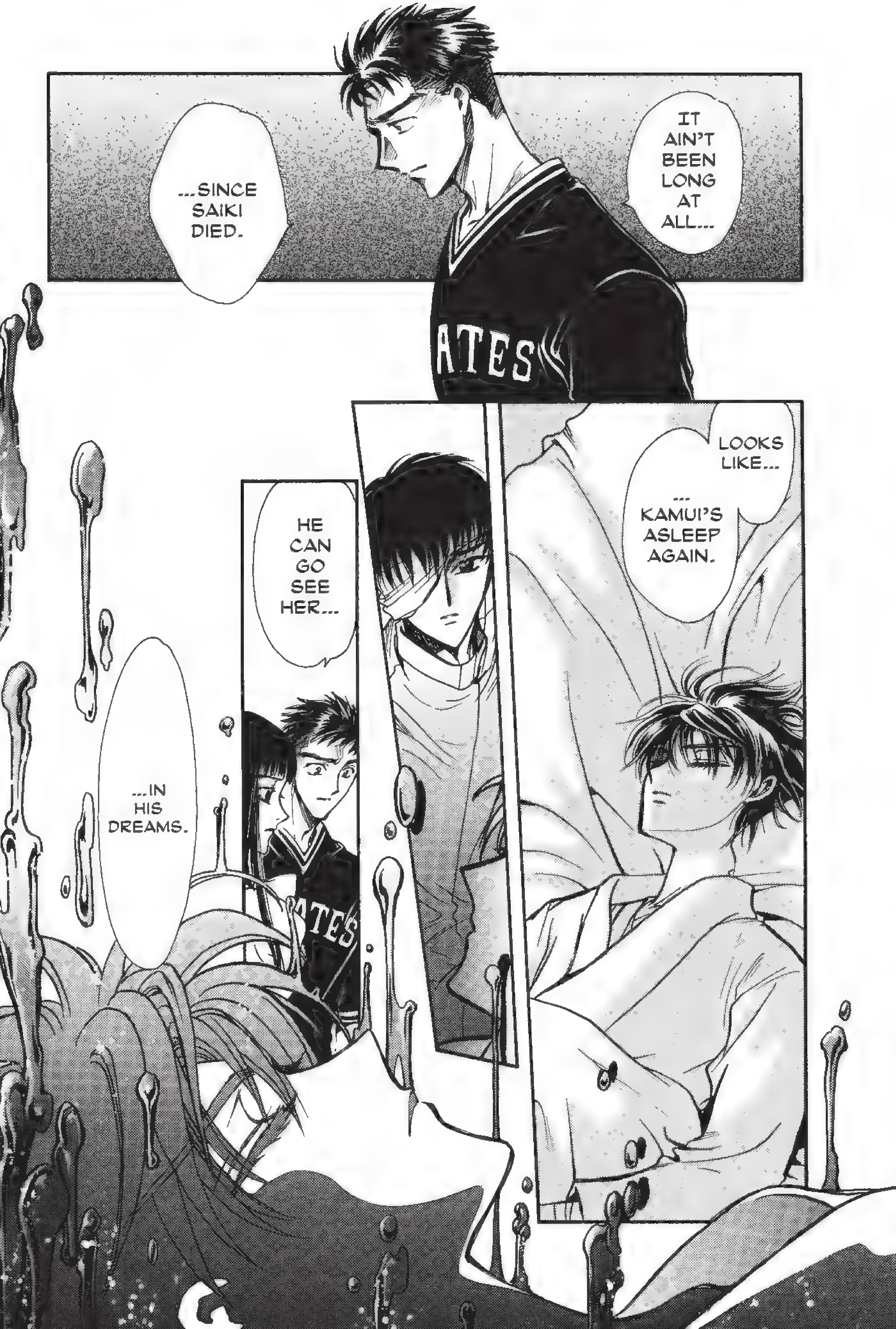

KCHAK
HE WOKE UP?!
JUST A MINUTE AGO.
DASH
MAN, WE SURE ARE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
PHEW!
WHAT ABOUT... SAIKI'S BODY...?
SHINJUKU'S A TOTAL DISASTER.
WE AIN'T HAD ANY LUCK FINDIN' HIM SO FAR....

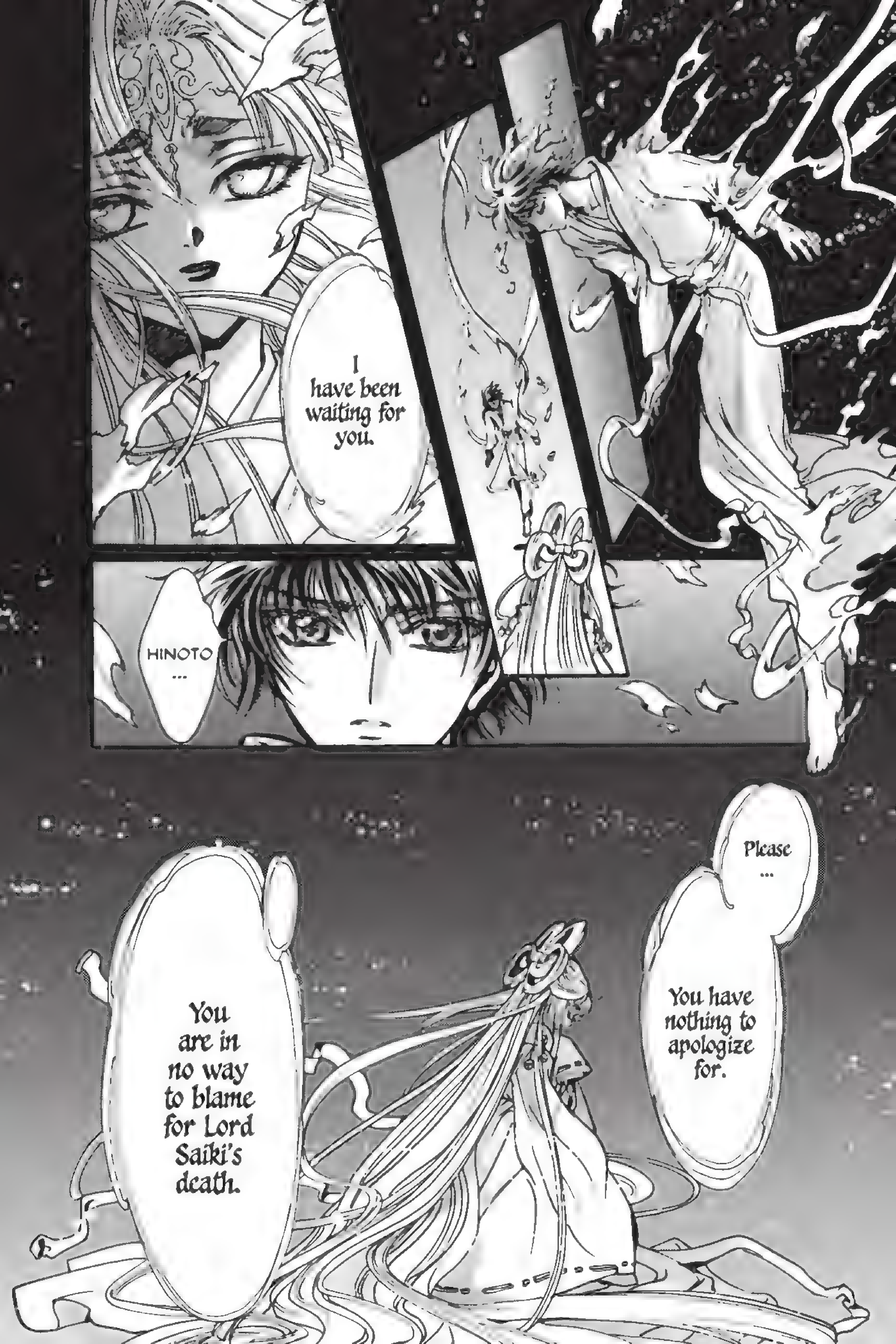

I NEED TO SEE HINOTO.
I HAVE TO TELL HER I'M SORRY... FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO SAIKI.

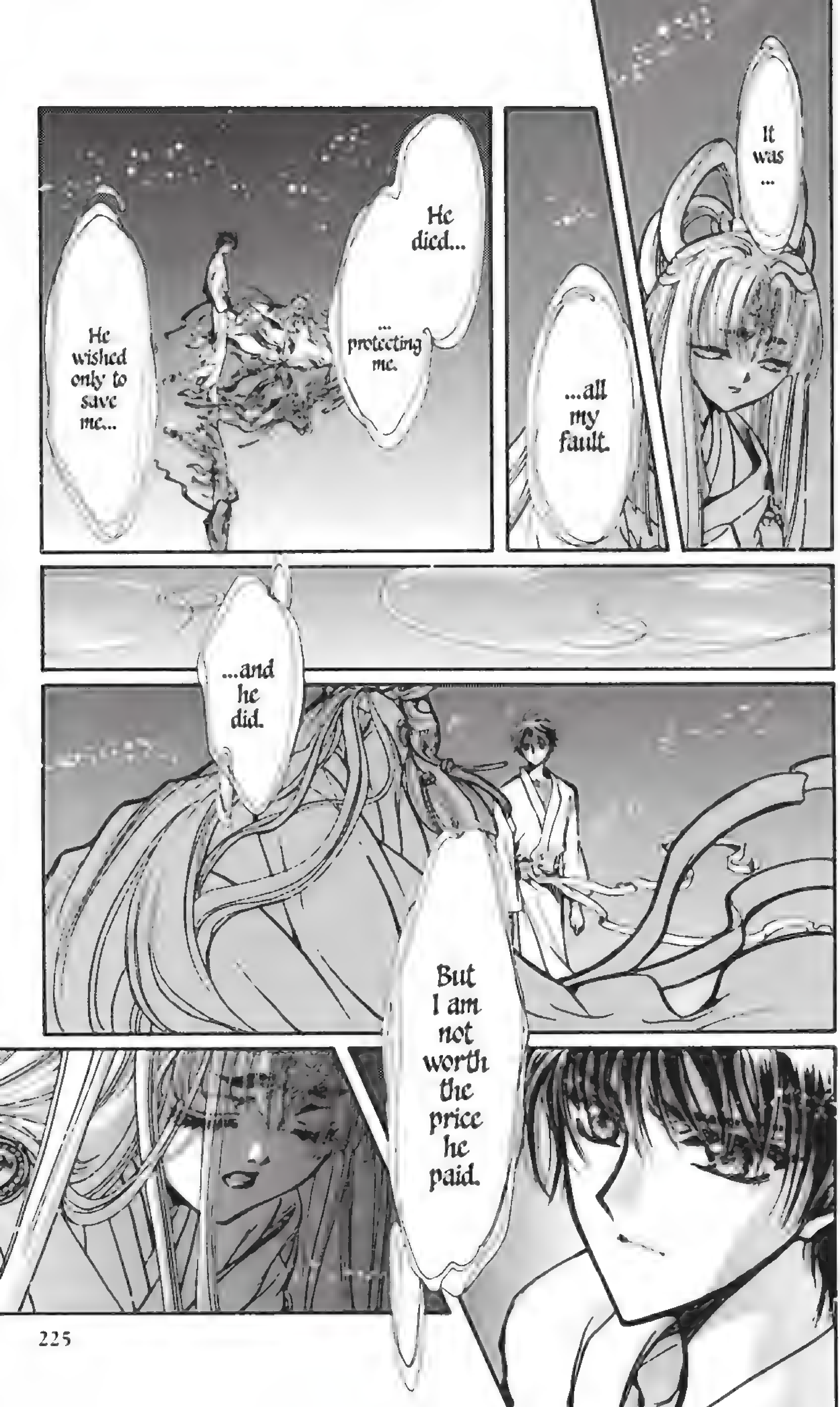

I DON'T EXPECT HER TO FORGIVE ME.
BUT ...
...I STILL NEED TO APOLOGIZE.

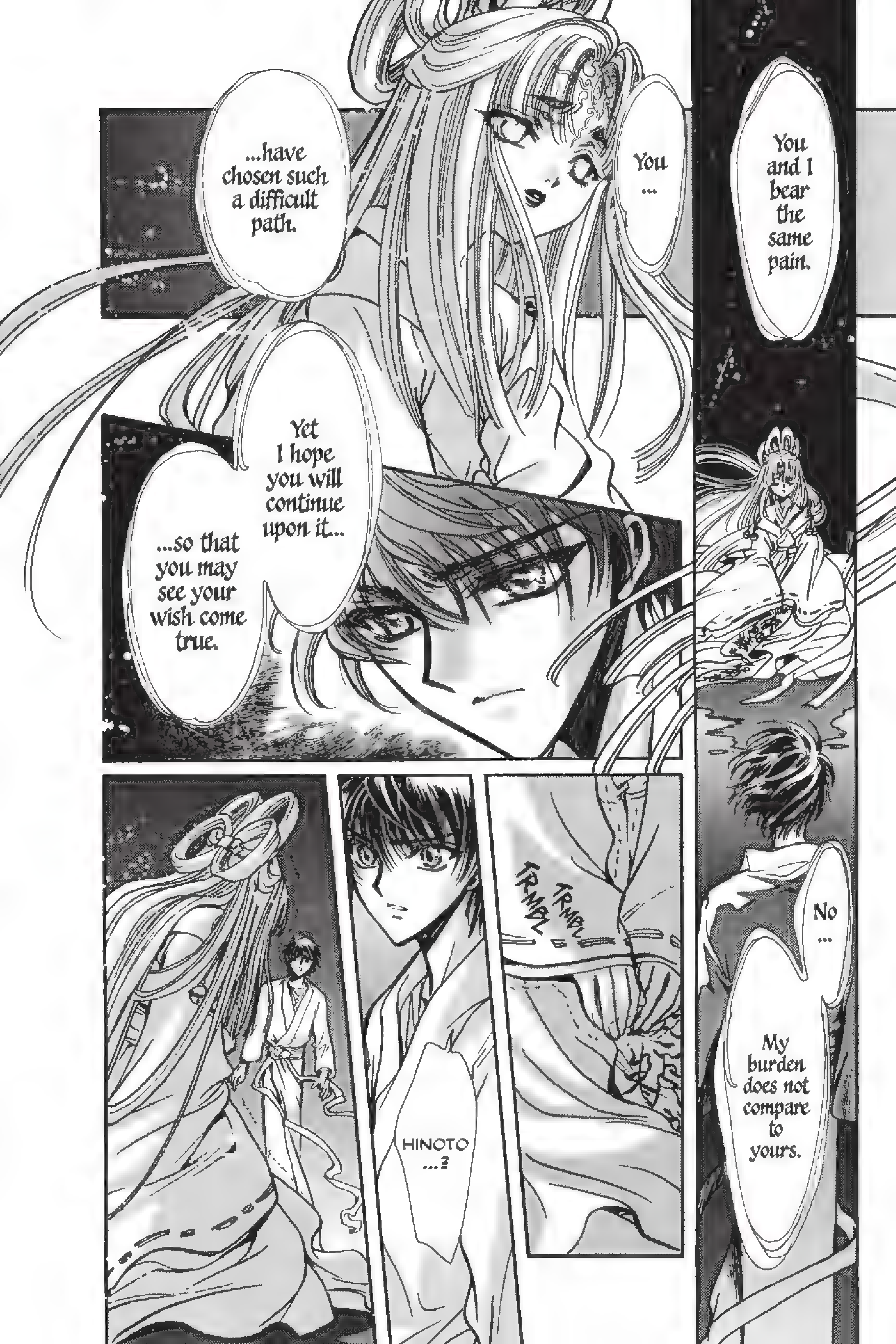

BUT YOU'RE IN NO KINDA SHAPE TO BE HEADIN' DOWN TO THE DIET BUILDING RIGHT NOW.
PAT
GOT IT.
SO GET SOME MORE REST, OKAY?

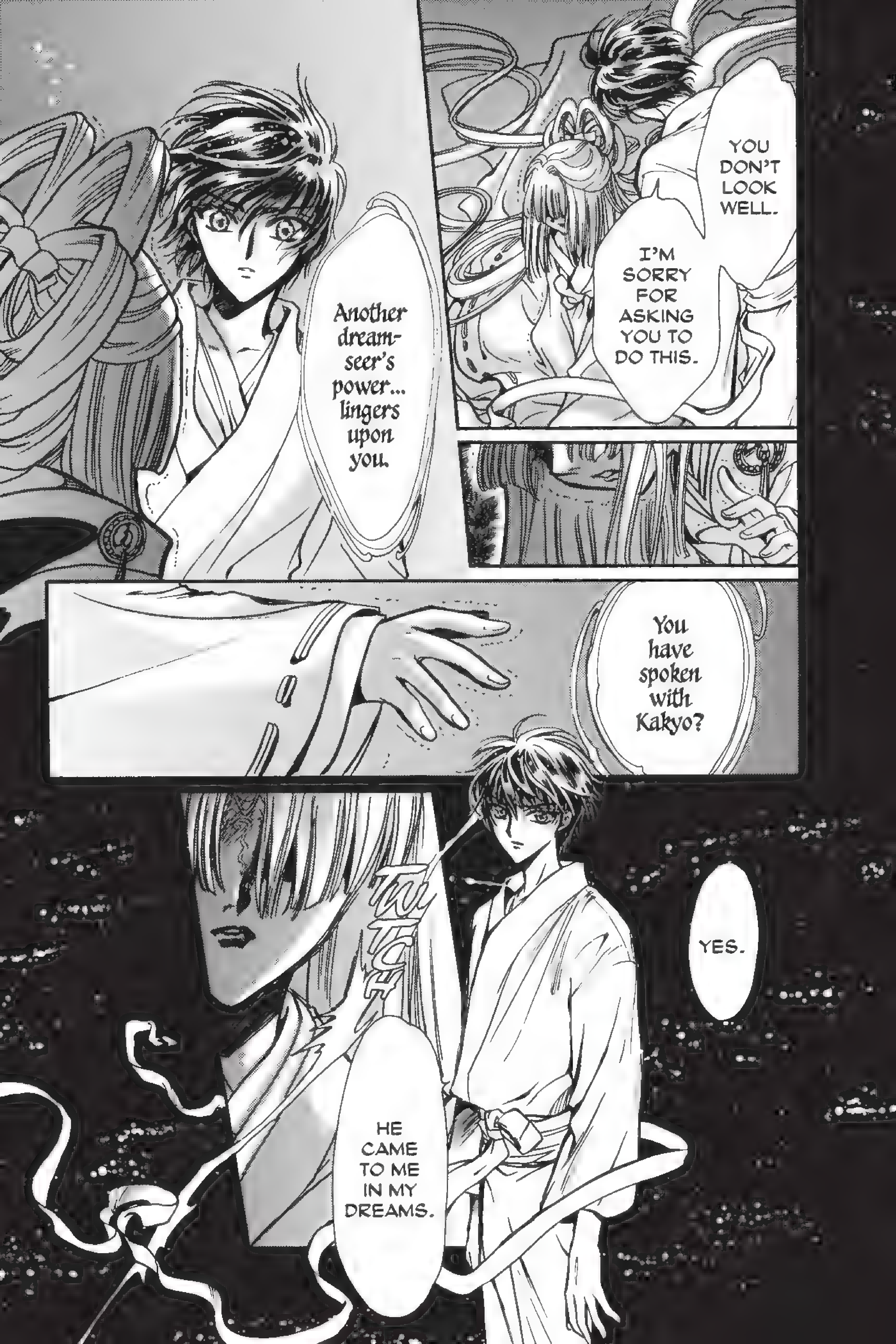

KREE
KLAK
DIDJA GET THROUGH TO HER?
YES.
SHE'LL EXPECT HIM LATER.
WHAT IS IT?
PRINCESS HINOTO HAS BEEN IN POOR HEALTH.
LADY SOHI AND LADY HIEN ARE QUITE CONCERNED.

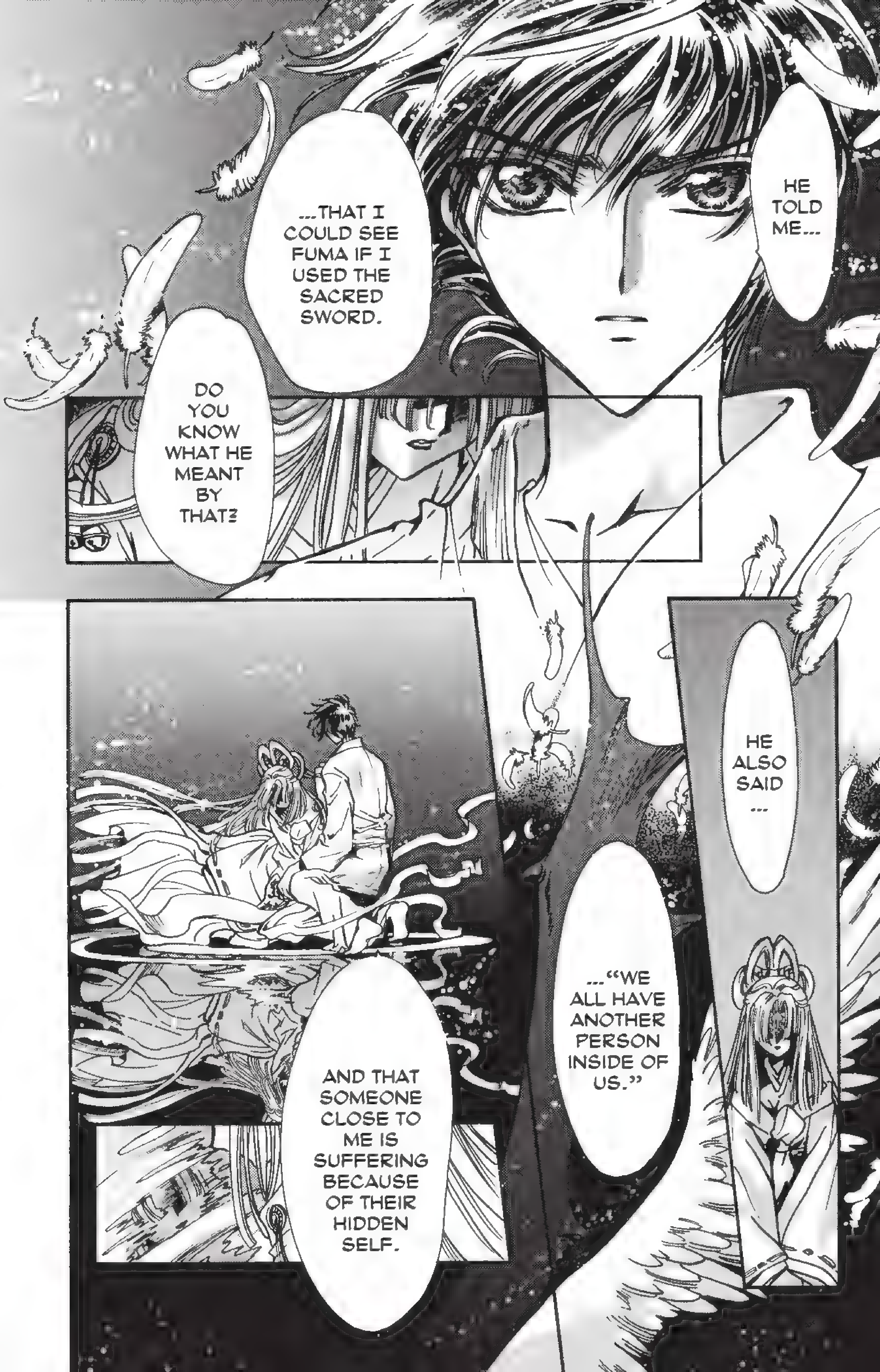

IT AIN'T BEEN LONG AT ALL...
...SINCE SAIKI DIED.
LOOKS LIKE...
...KAMUI'S ASLEEP AGAIN.
HE CAN GO SEE HER...
...IN HIS DREAMS.

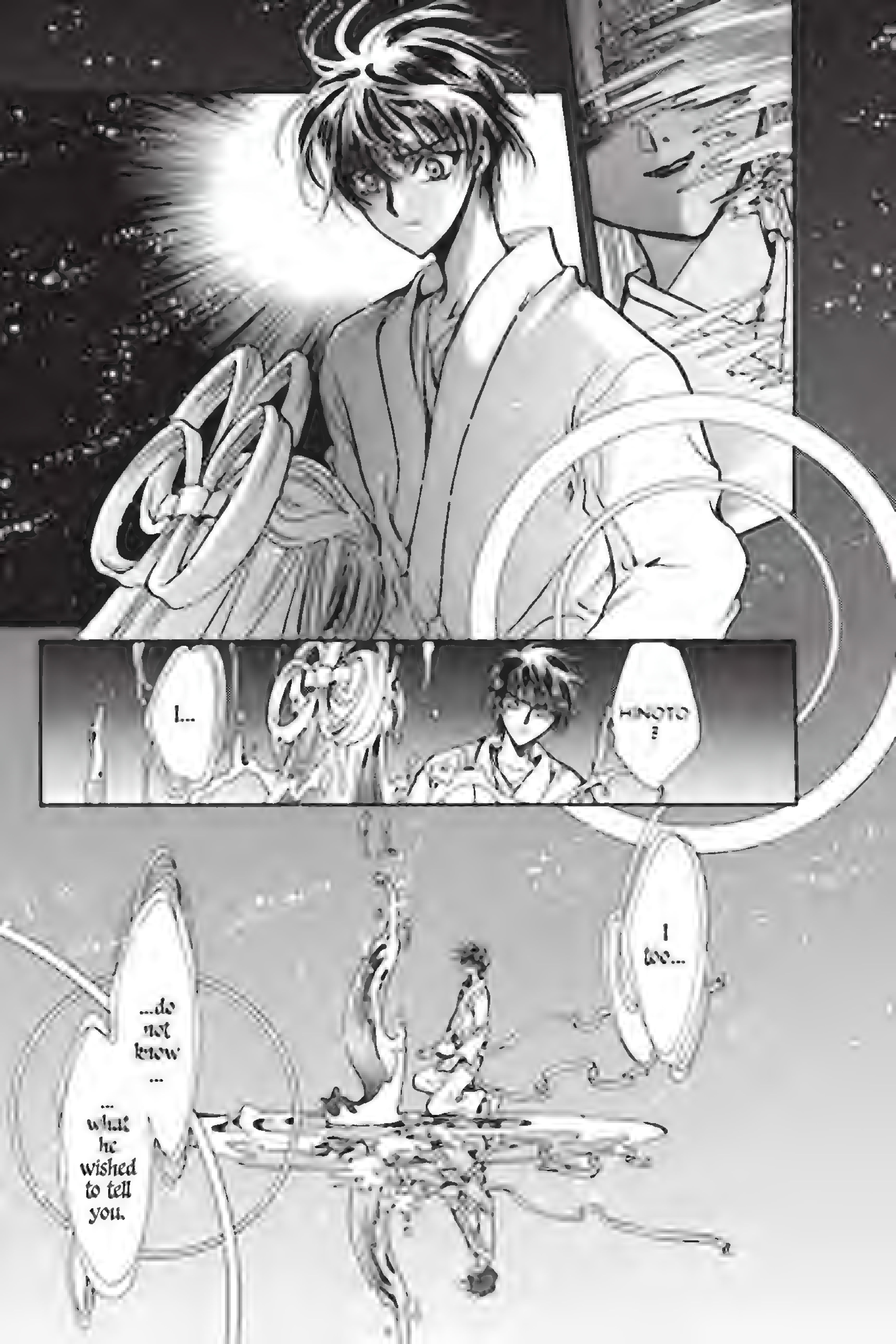

I have been waiting for you.
HINOTO...
Please...
You have nothing to apologize for.
You are in no way to blame for Lord Saiki's death.

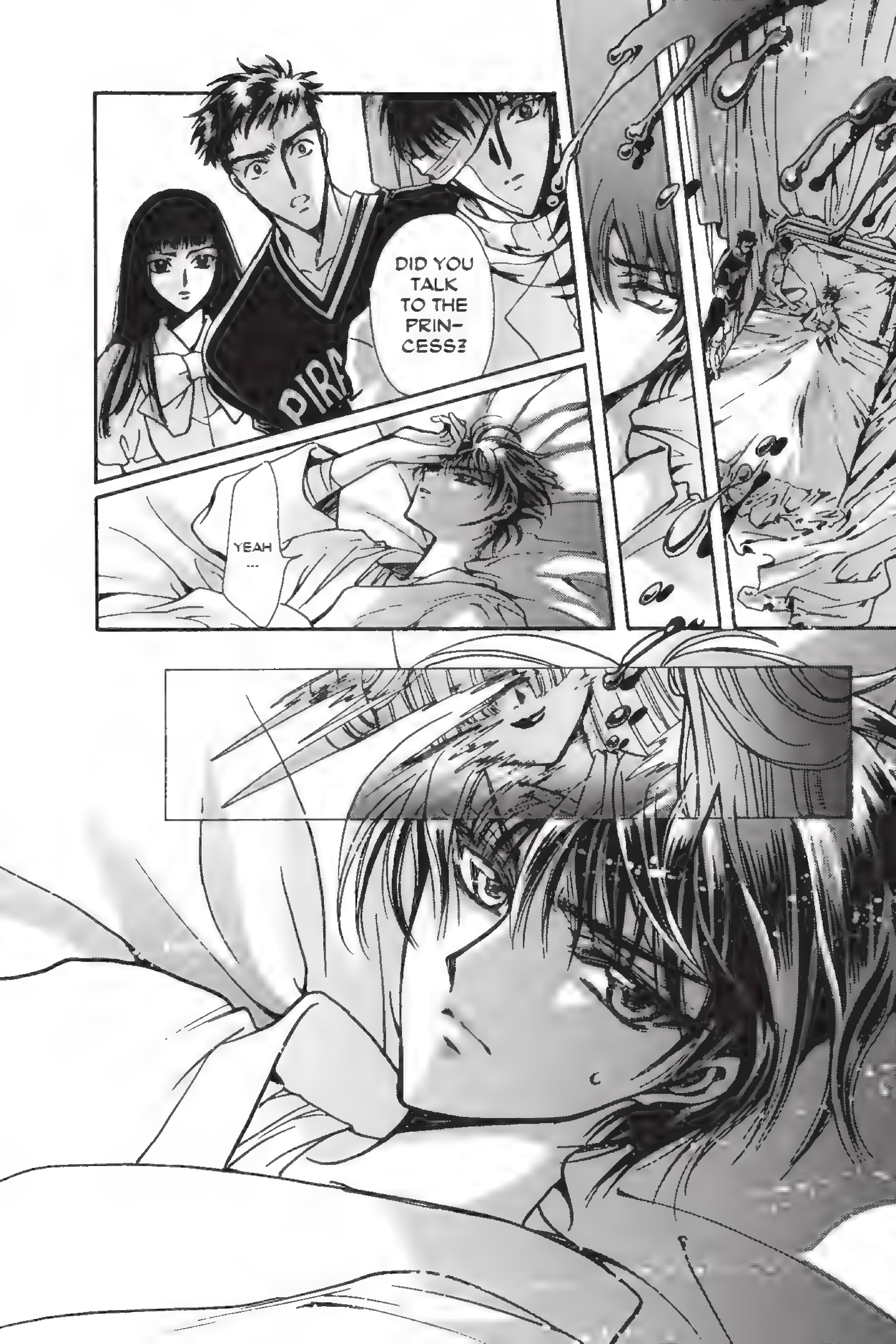

It was...
...all my fault.
He died... ...protecting me.
He wished only to save me...
...and he did.
But I am not worth the price he paid.

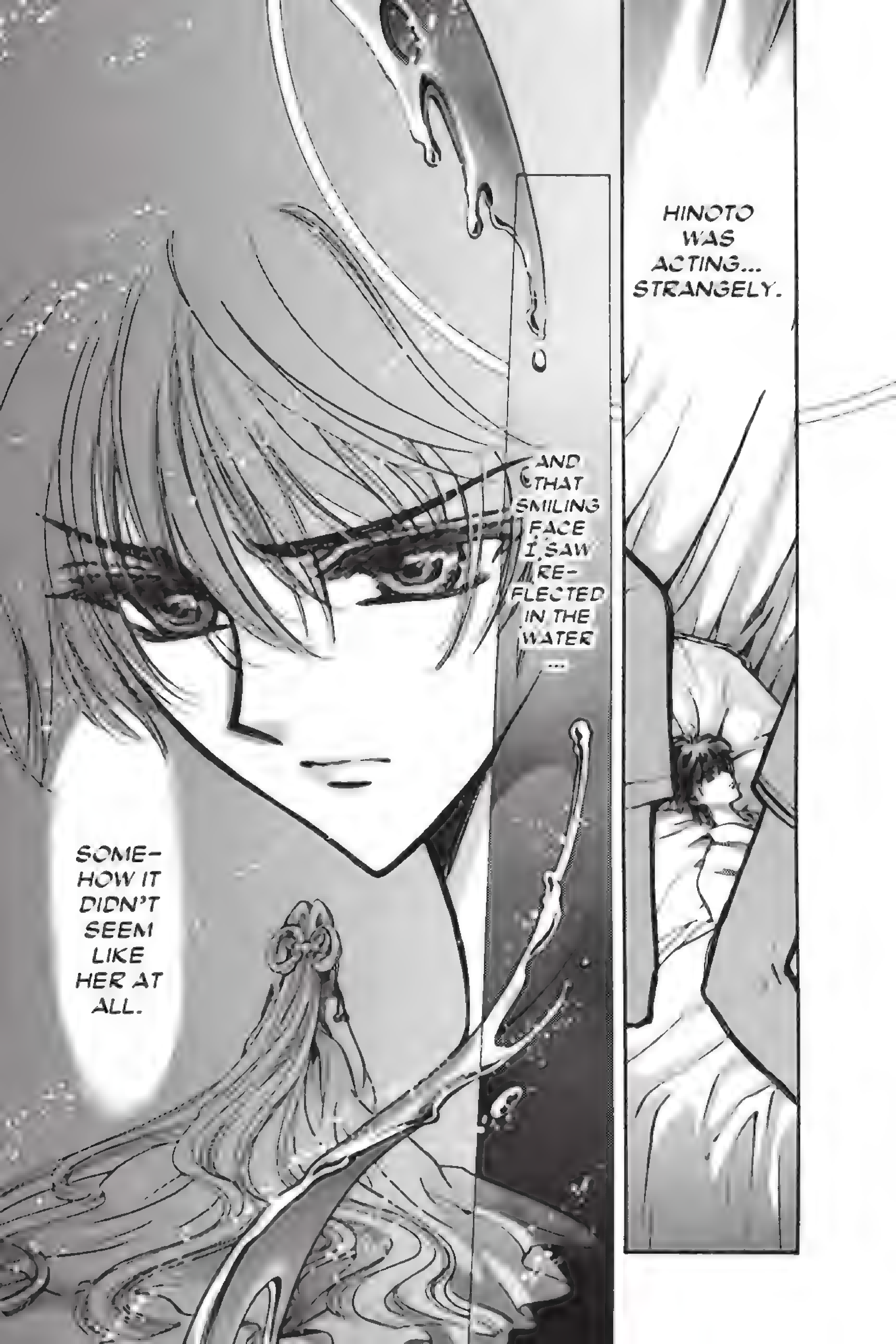

You and I bear the same pain.
No ...
My burden does not compare to yours.
You ...
...have chosen such a difficult path.
Yet I hope you will continue upon it...
...so that you may see your wish come true.
TRMBL TRMBL
HINOTO ...?

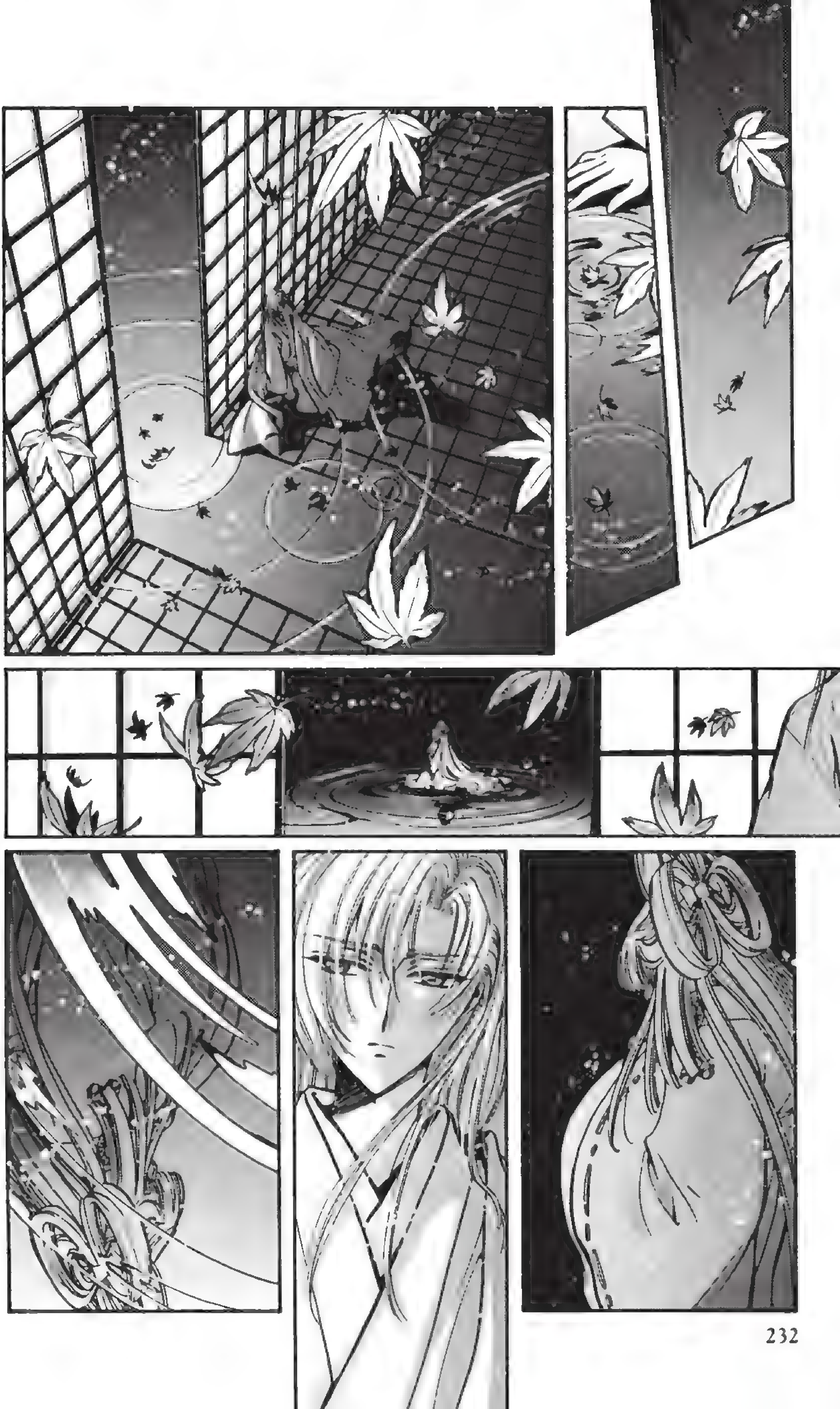

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
I'M SORRY FOR ASKING YOU TO DO THIS.
Another dreamseer's power... lingers upon you.
You have spoken with Kakyo?
YES.
TWITCH
HE CAME TO ME IN MY DREAMS.

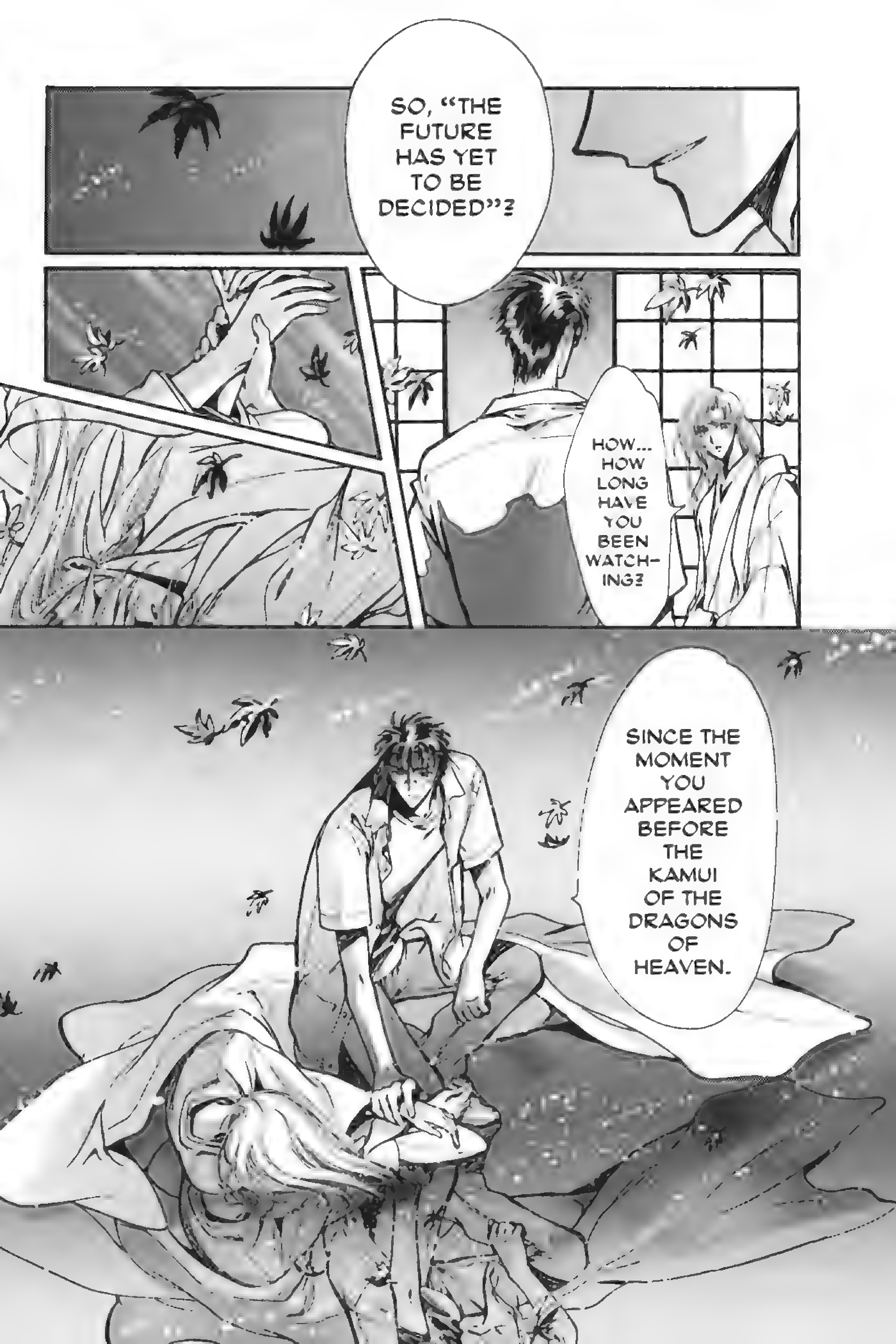

HE TOLD ME...
...THAT I COULD SEE FUMA IF I USED THE SACRED SWORD.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT?
HE ALSO SAID...
...“WE ALL HAVE ANOTHER PERSON INSIDE OF US.”
AND THAT SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THEIR HIDDEN SELF.

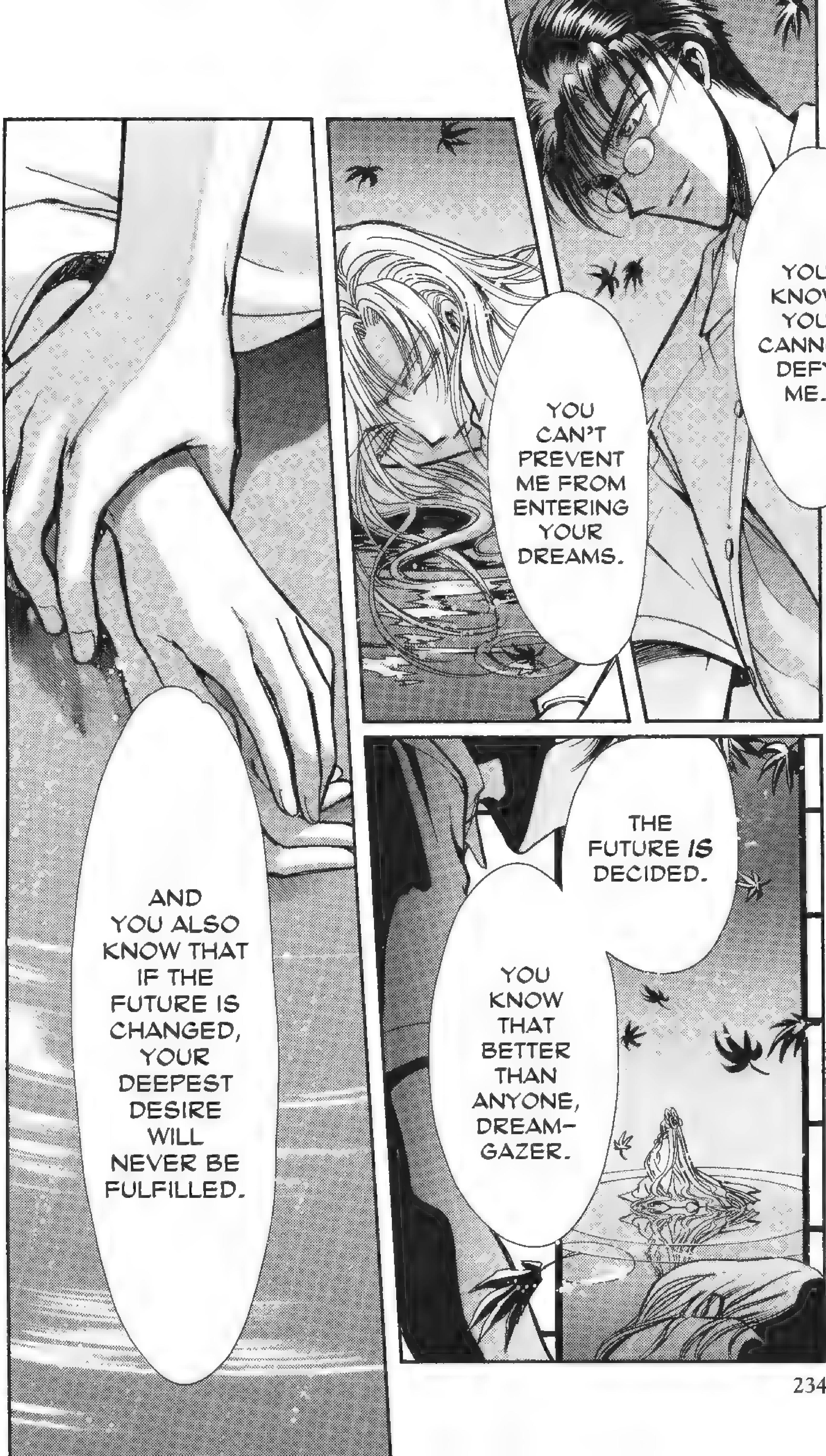

HINOTO?
I...
I too...
...do not know...
...what he wished to tell you.

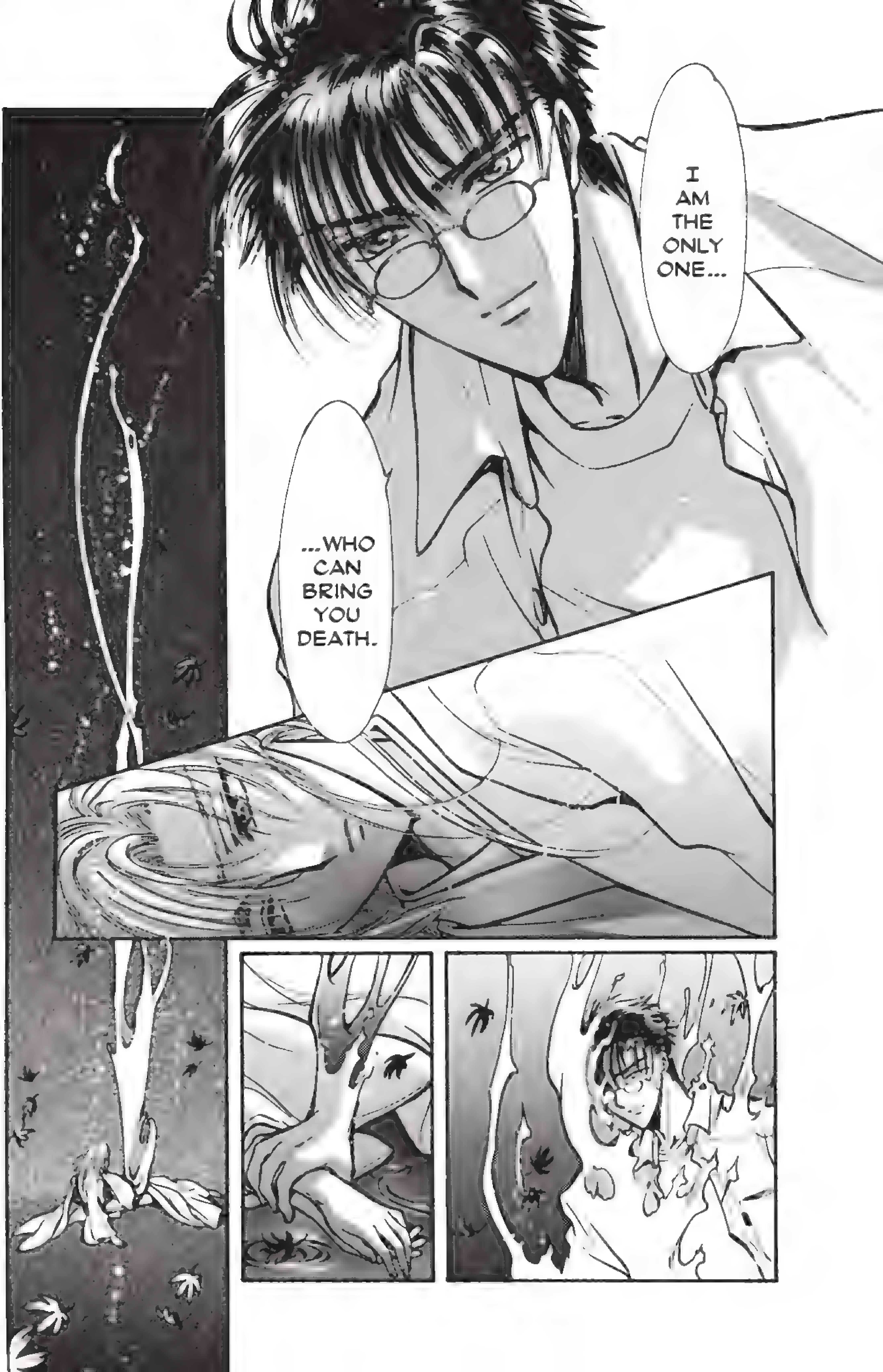

DID YOU TALK TO THE PRINCESS?
PIRA
YEAH ...

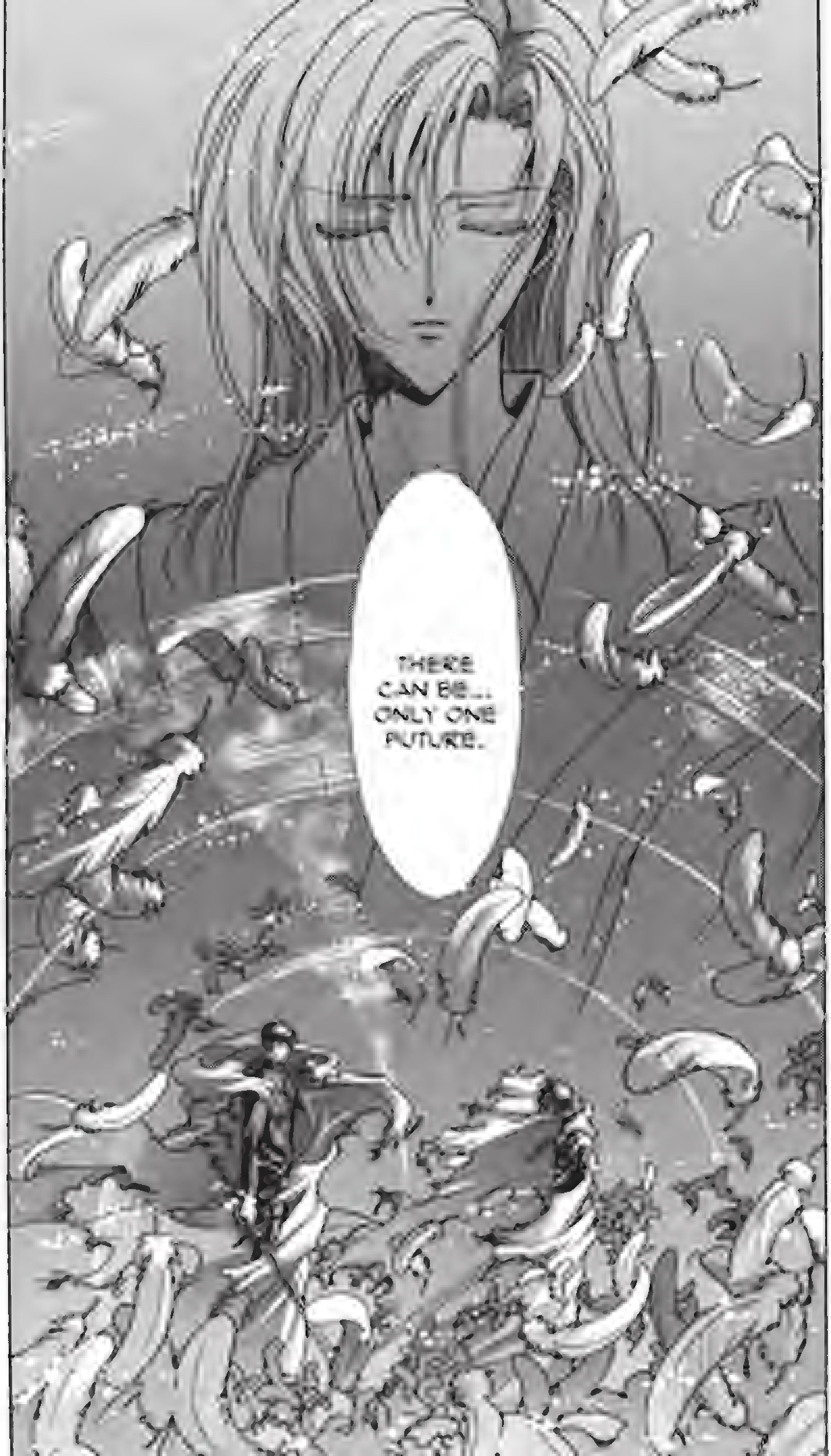

HINOTO WAS ACTING... STRANGELY.
AND THAT SMILING FACE I SAW REFLECTED IN THE WATER ...
SOMEHOW IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HER AT ALL.

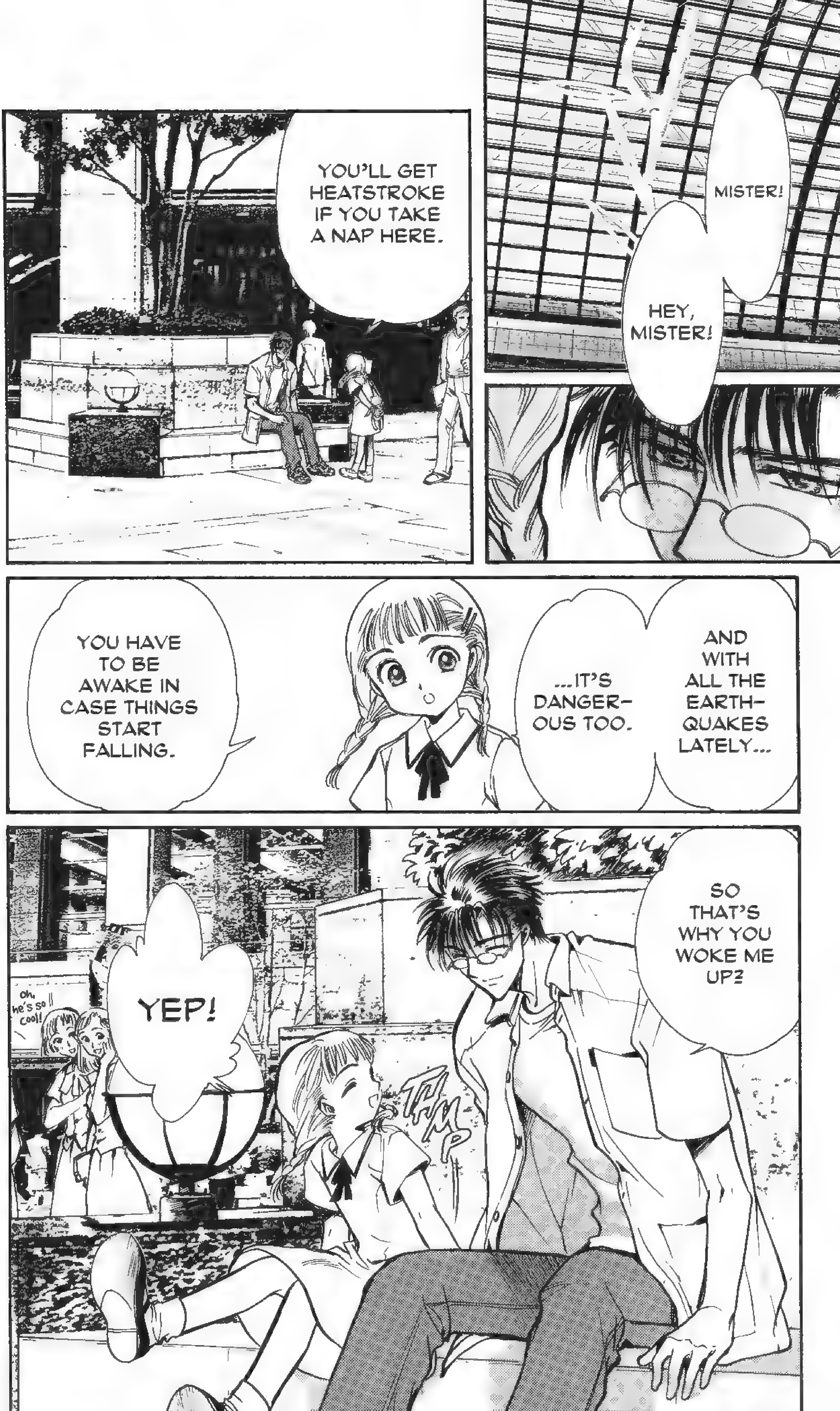


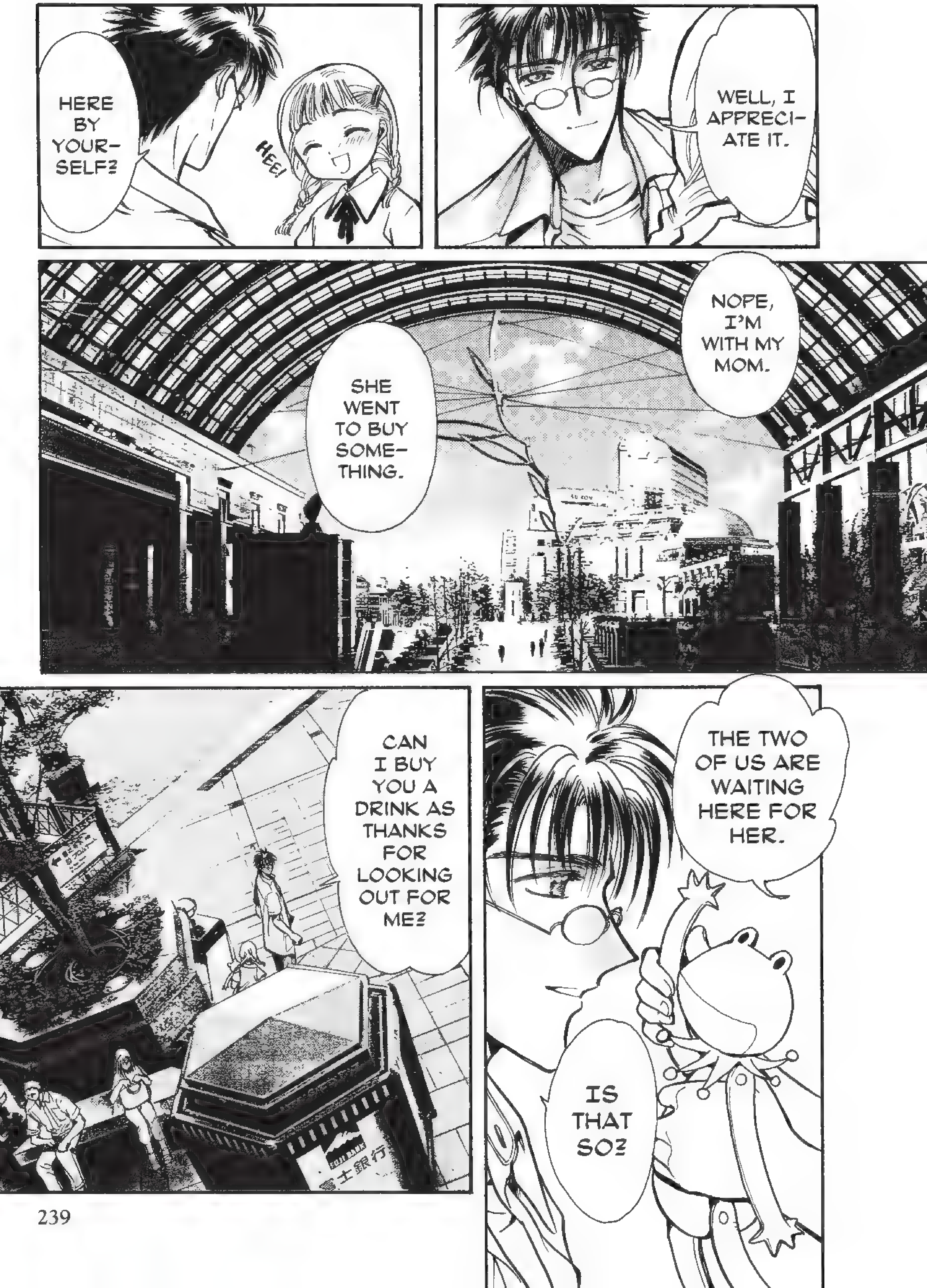

SO, "THE FUTURE HAS YET TO BE DECIDED"?
HOW... HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING?
SINCE THE MOMENT YOU APPEARED BEFORE THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.

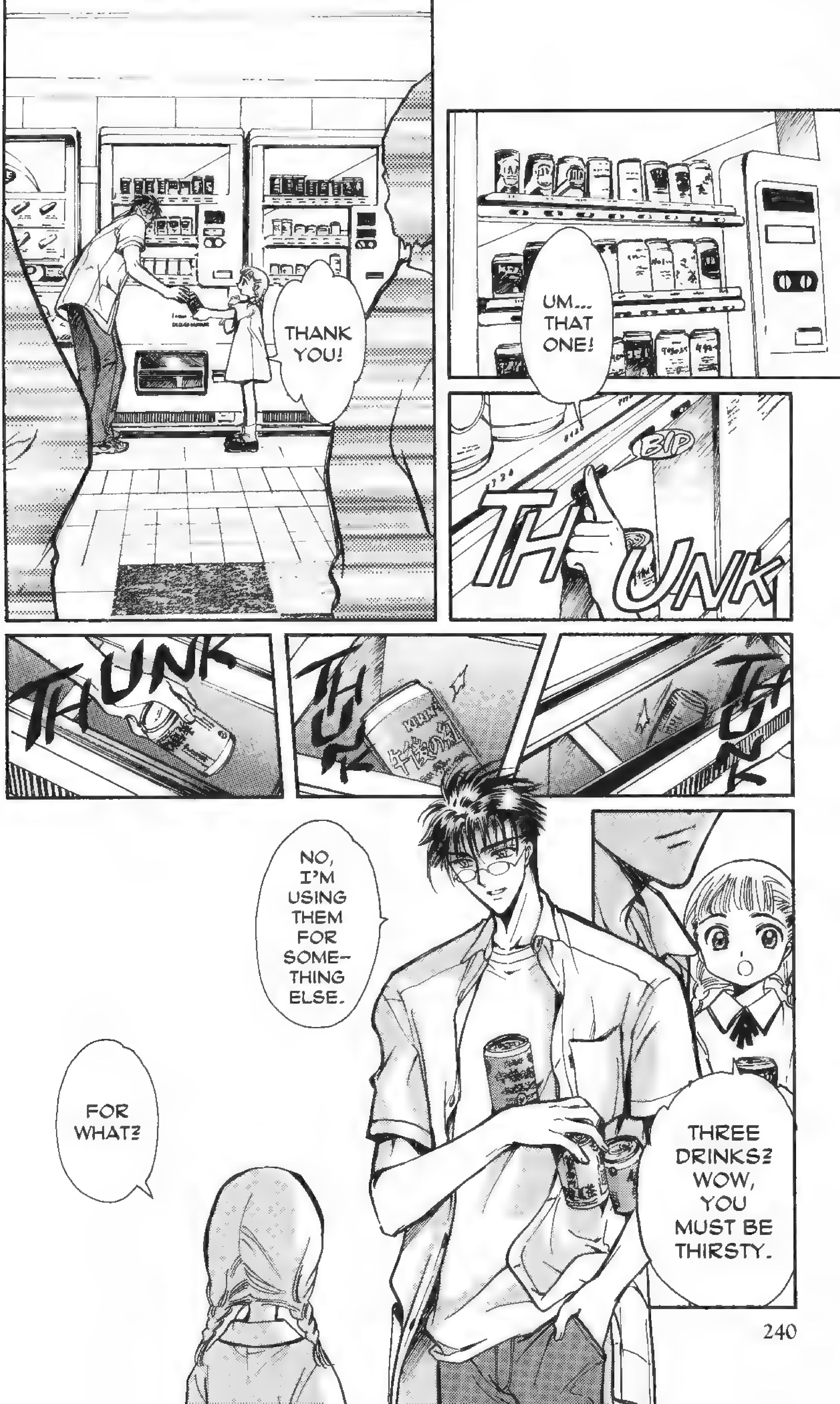

YOU KNOW YOU CANNOT DEFY ME.
YOU CAN'T PREVENT ME FROM ENTERING YOUR DREAMS.
THE FUTURE *IS* DECIDED.
YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE, DREAM-GAZER.
AND YOU ALSO KNOW THAT IF THE FUTURE IS CHANGED, YOUR DEEPEST DESIRE WILL NEVER BE FULFILLED.

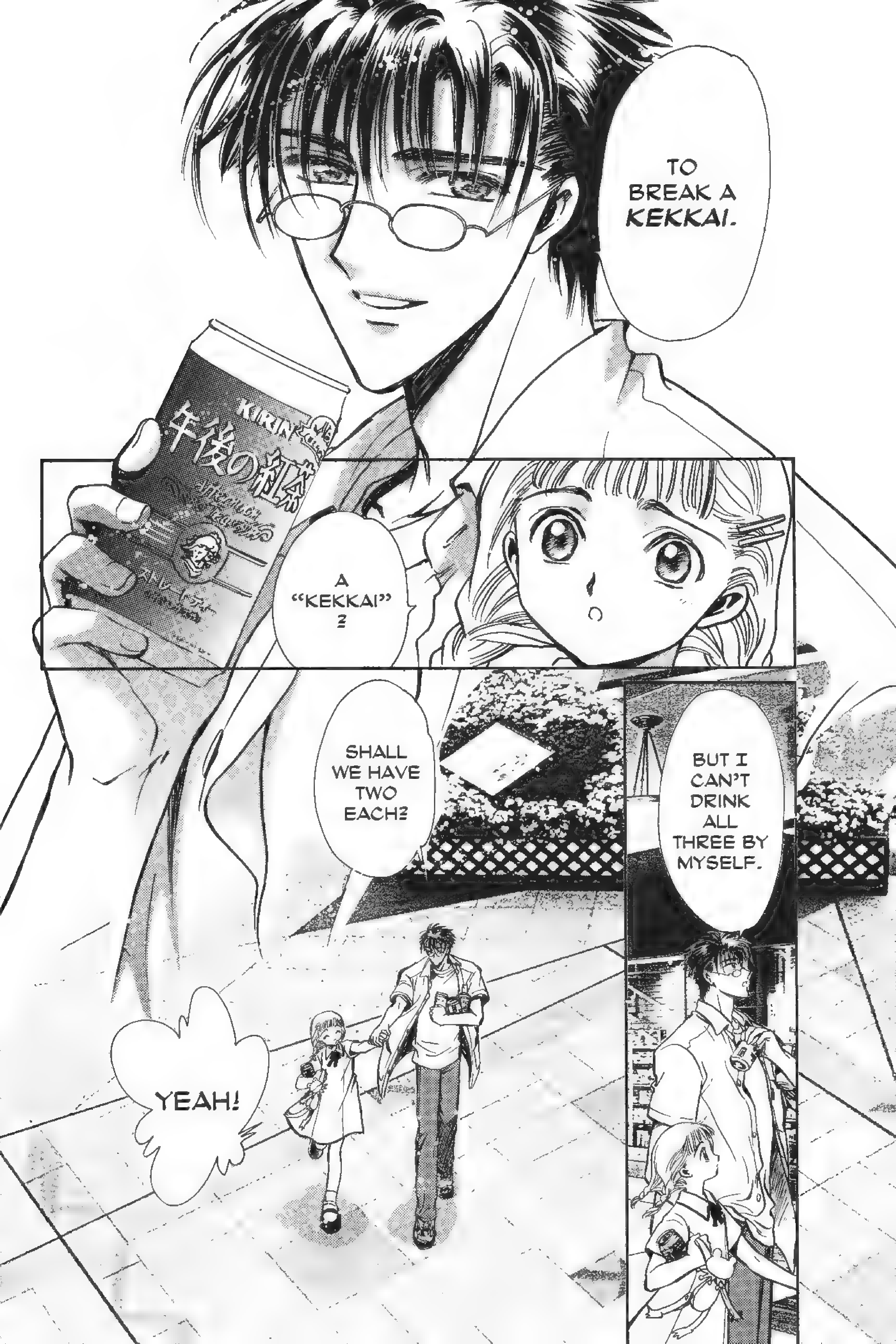

I AM THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO CAN BRING YOU DEATH.

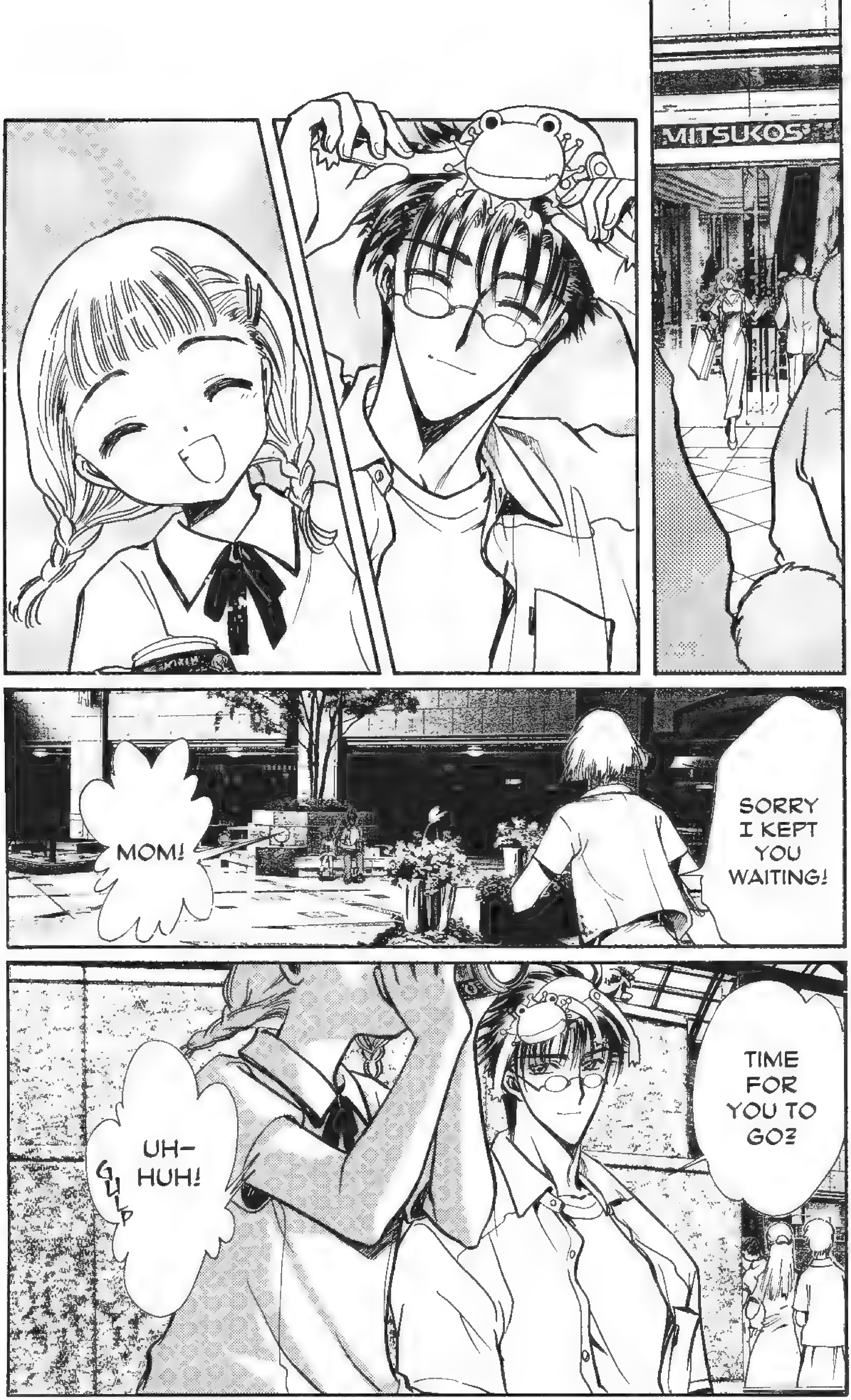

THERE CAN BE... ONLY ONE FUTURE.

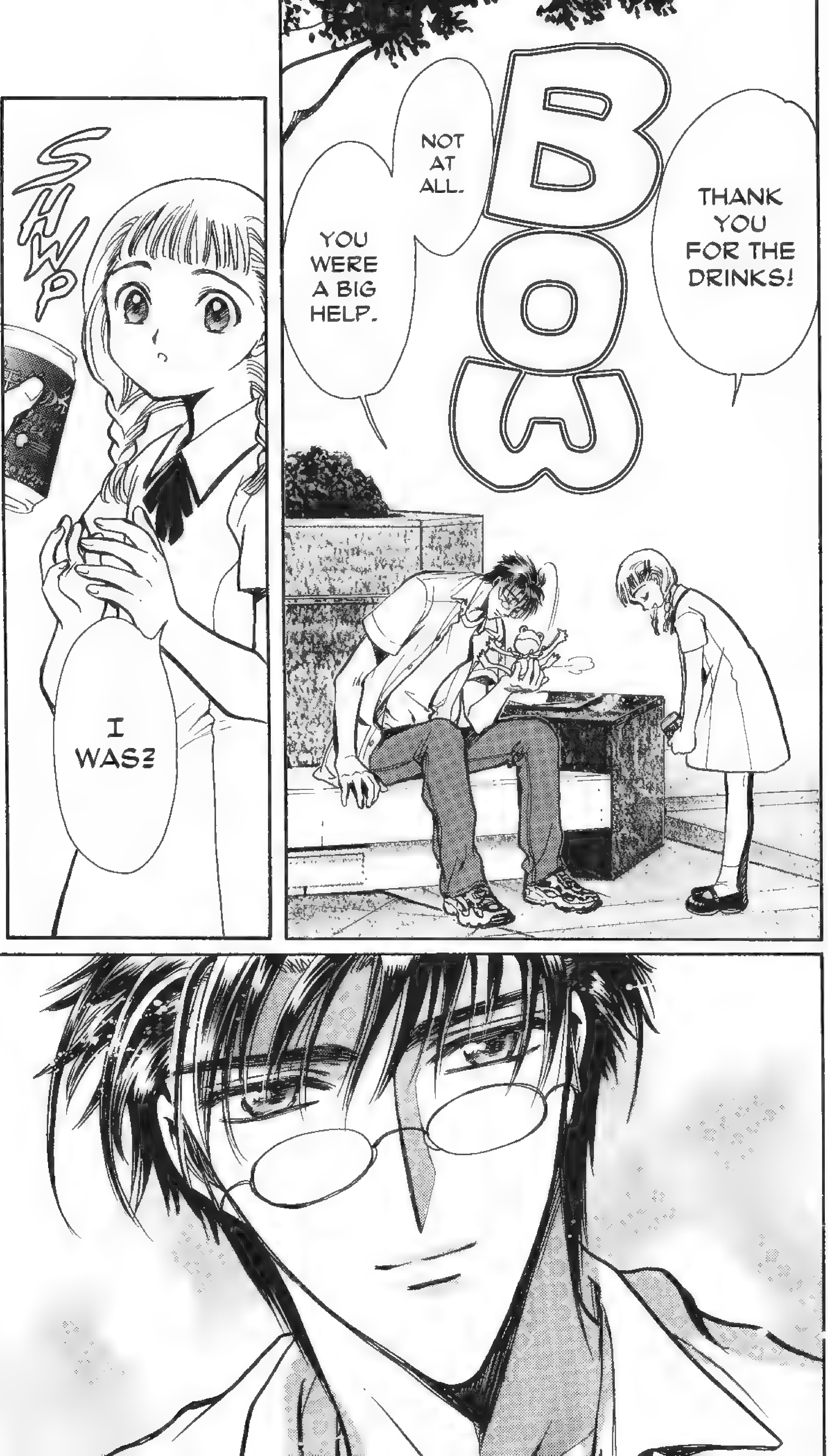

MISTER!
HEY, MISTER!
YOU'LL GET HEATSTROKE IF YOU TAKE A NAP HERE.
AND WITH ALL THE EARTHQUAKES LATELY...
...IT'S DANGEROUS TOO.
YOU HAVE TO BE AWAKE IN CASE THINGS START FALLING.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WOKE ME UP?
THMP
YEP!
Oh, he's so cool!

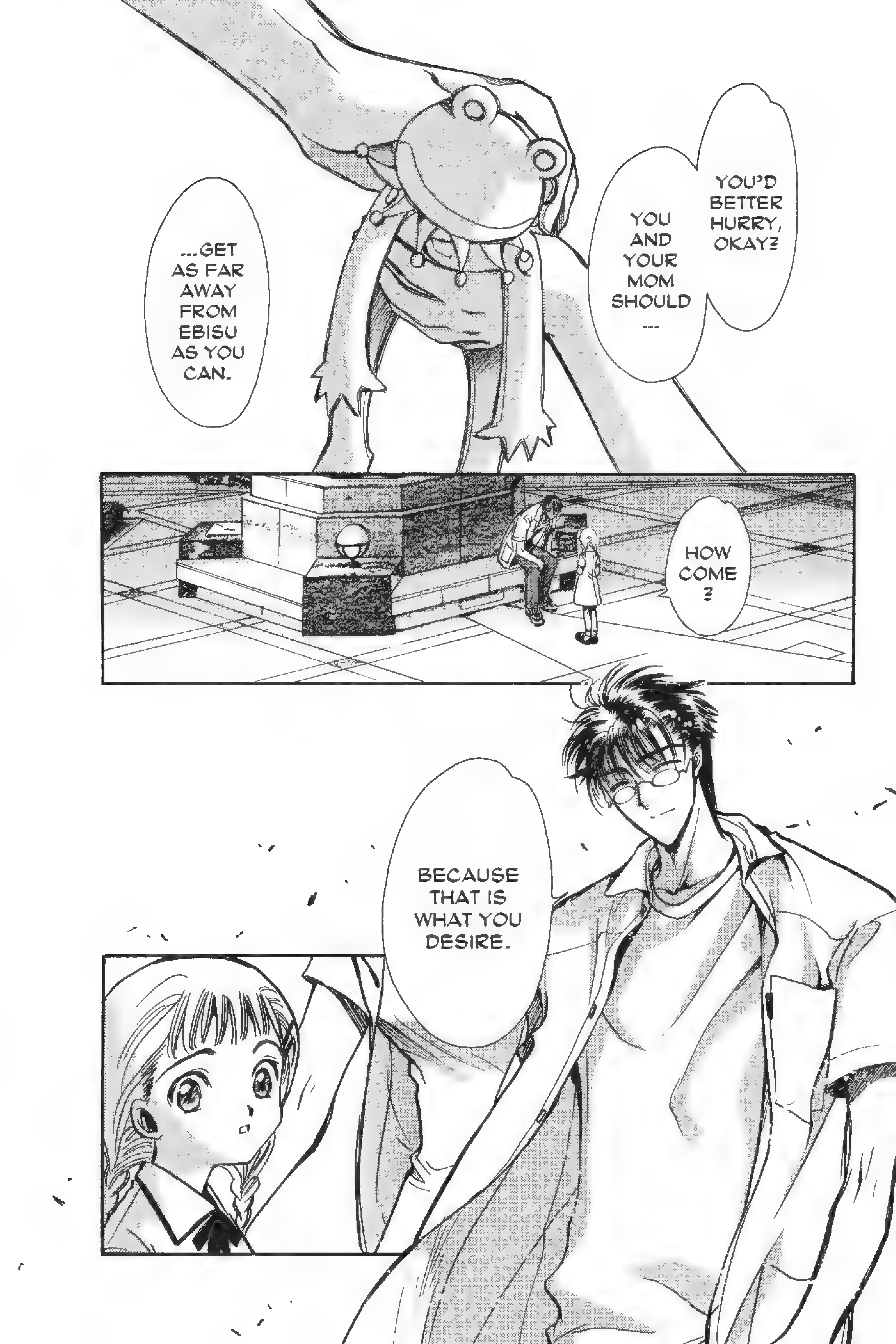

WELL, I APPRECIATE IT.
HERE BY YOURSELF?
HEE!
NOPE, I'M WITH MY MOM.
SHE WENT TO BUY SOMETHING.
THE TWO OF US ARE WAITING HERE FOR HER.
IS THAT SO?
CAN I BUY YOU A DRINK AS THANKS FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME?
FUJI BANK
富士銀行

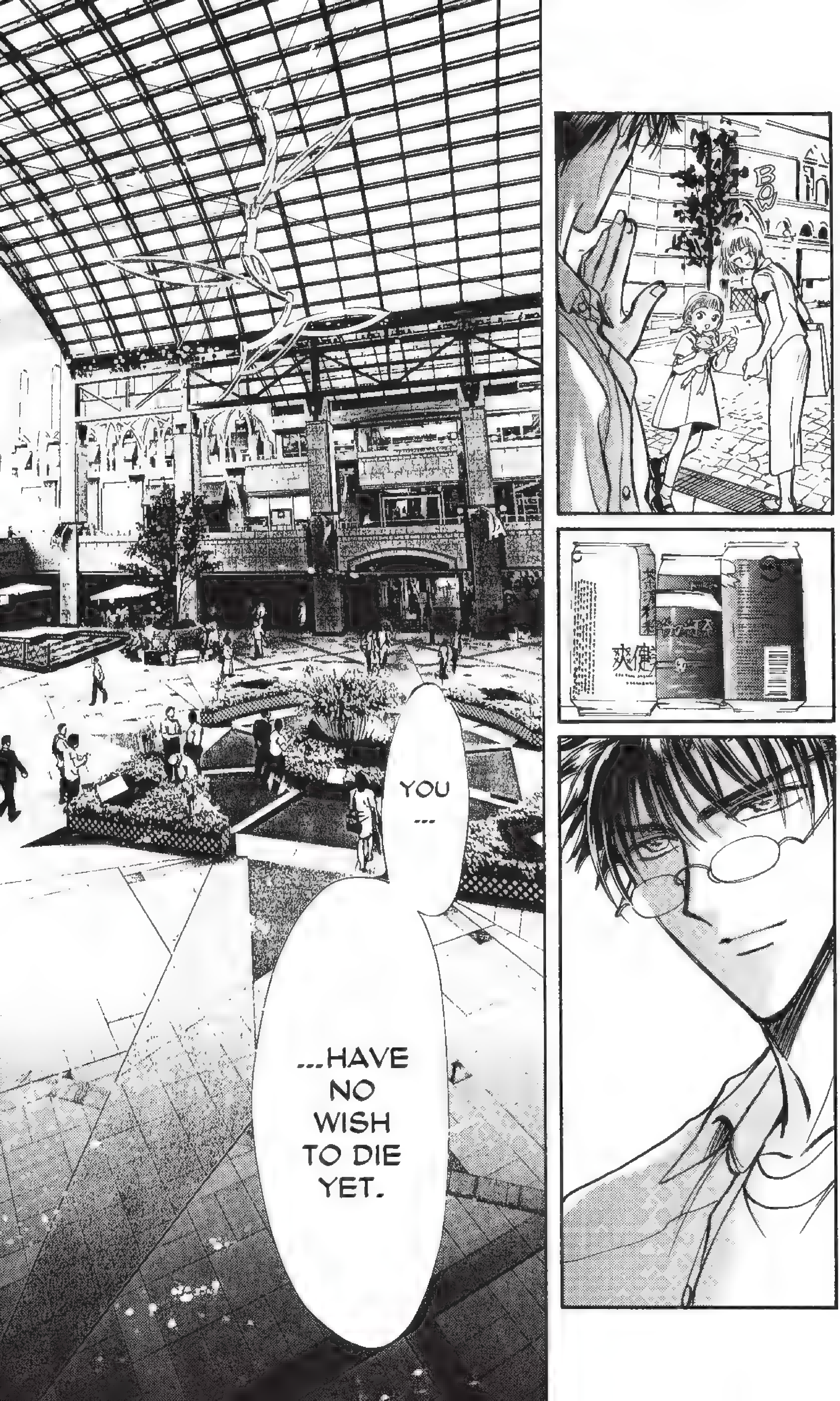

UM... THAT ONE!
BIP
THUNK
THANK YOU!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THREE DRINKS? WOW, YOU MUST BE THIRSTY.
NO, I'M USING THEM FOR SOMETHING ELSE.
FOR WHAT?

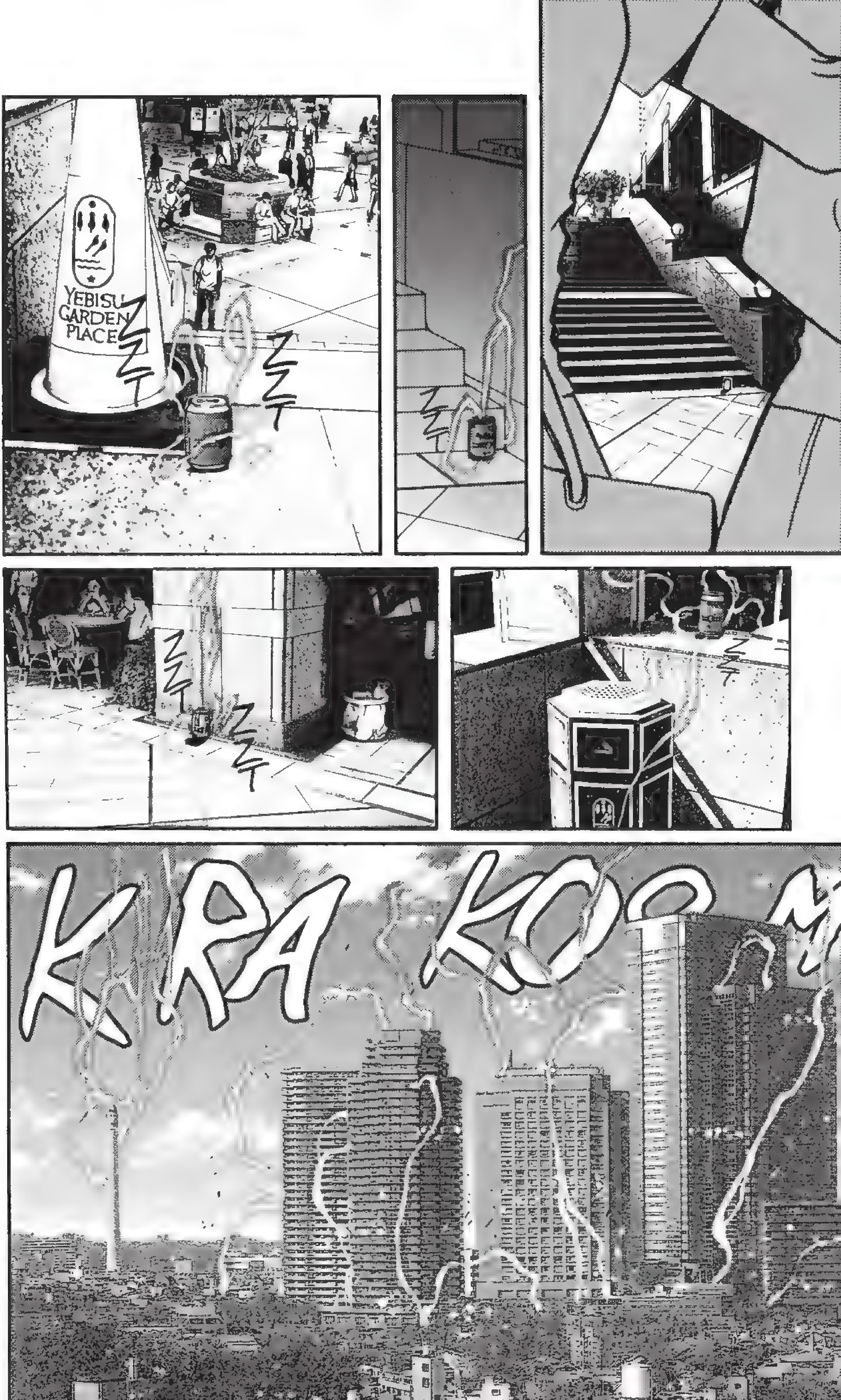

TO BREAK A *KEKKAI*.
KIRIN
午後の紅茶
A "KEKKAI"?
BUT I CAN'T DRINK ALL THREE BY MYSELF.
SHALL WE HAVE TWO EACH?
YEAH!

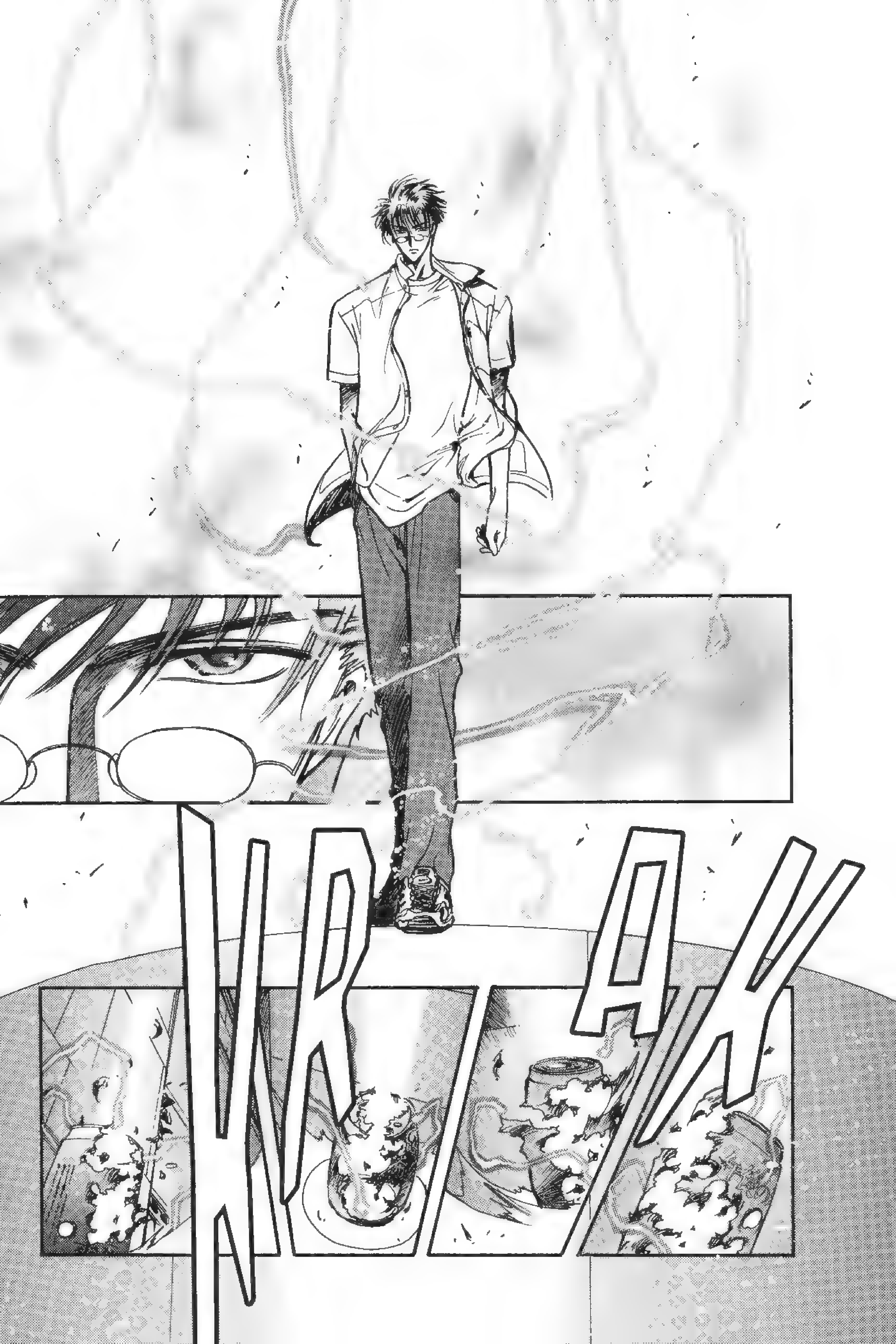

MITSUKOS
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING!
MOM!
TIME FOR YOU TO GO?
UH-HUH!
GULP

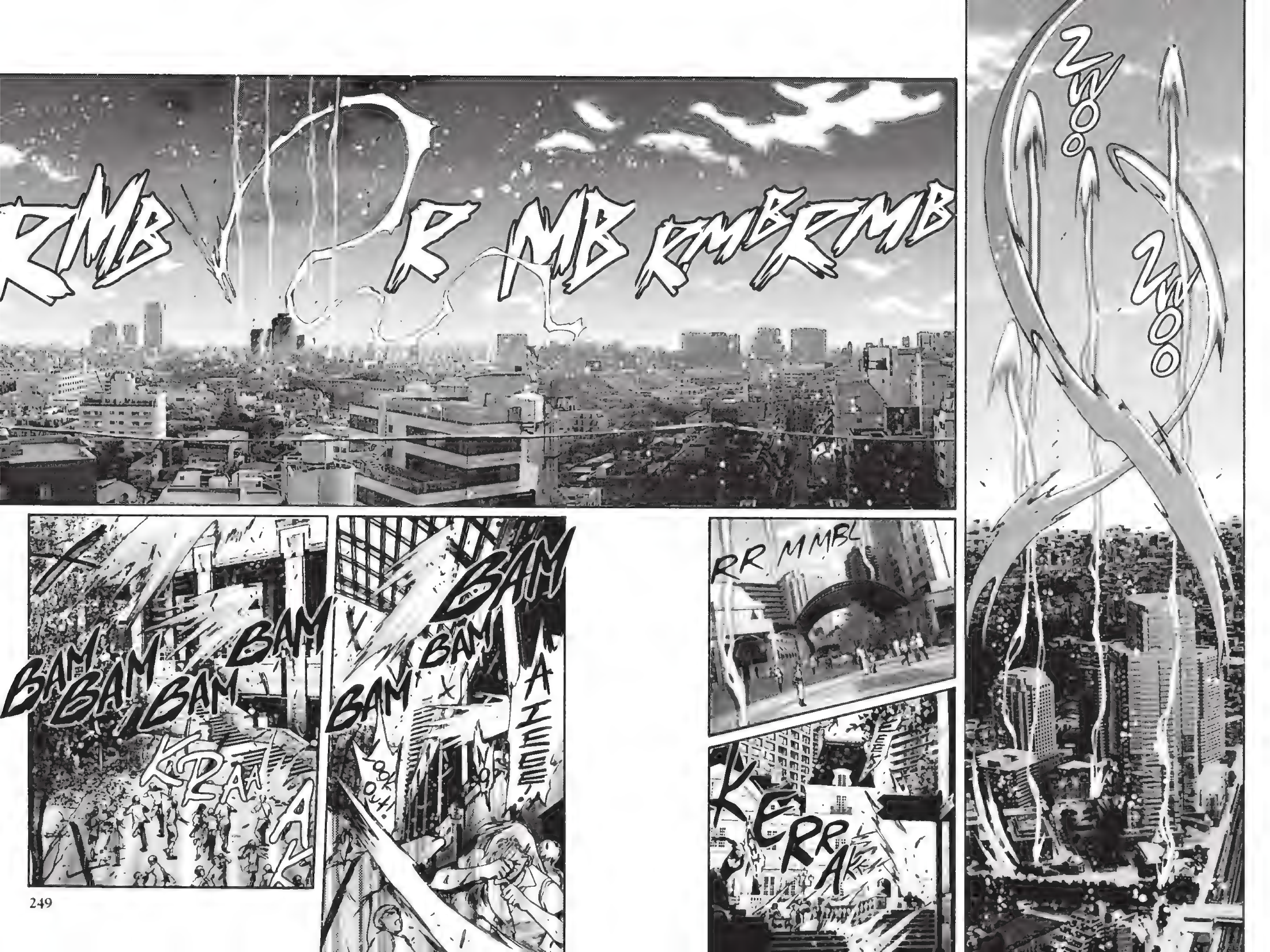

THANK YOU FOR THE DRINKS!
BOW
NOT AT ALL.
YOU WERE A BIG HELP.
SHWP
I WAS?


YOU'D BETTER HURRY, OKAY?
YOU AND YOUR MOM SHOULD ...
...GET AS FAR AWAY FROM EBISU AS YOU CAN.
HOW COME?
BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT YOU DESIRE.

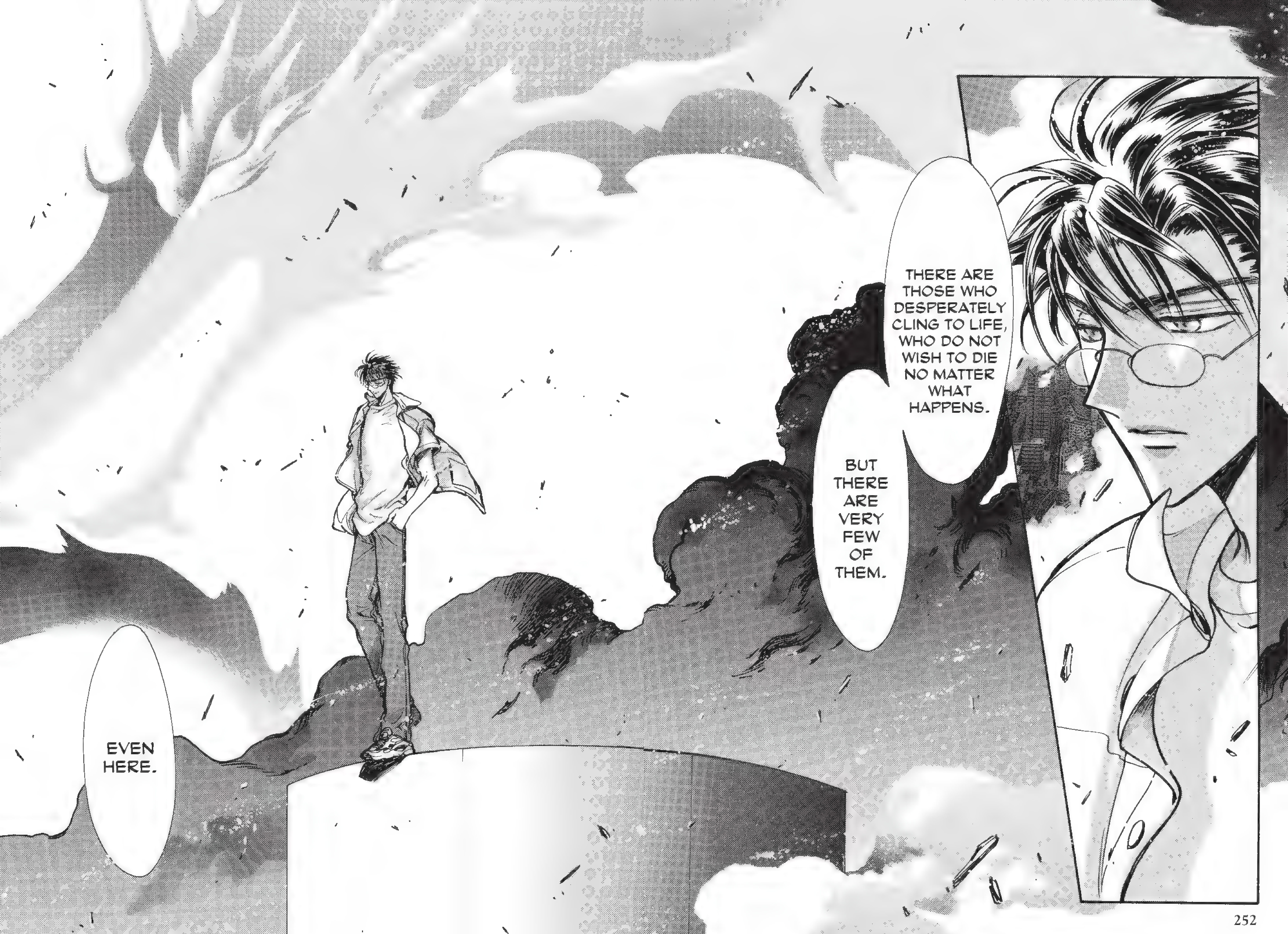

BOW
YOU ...
...HAVE NO WISH TO DIE YET.

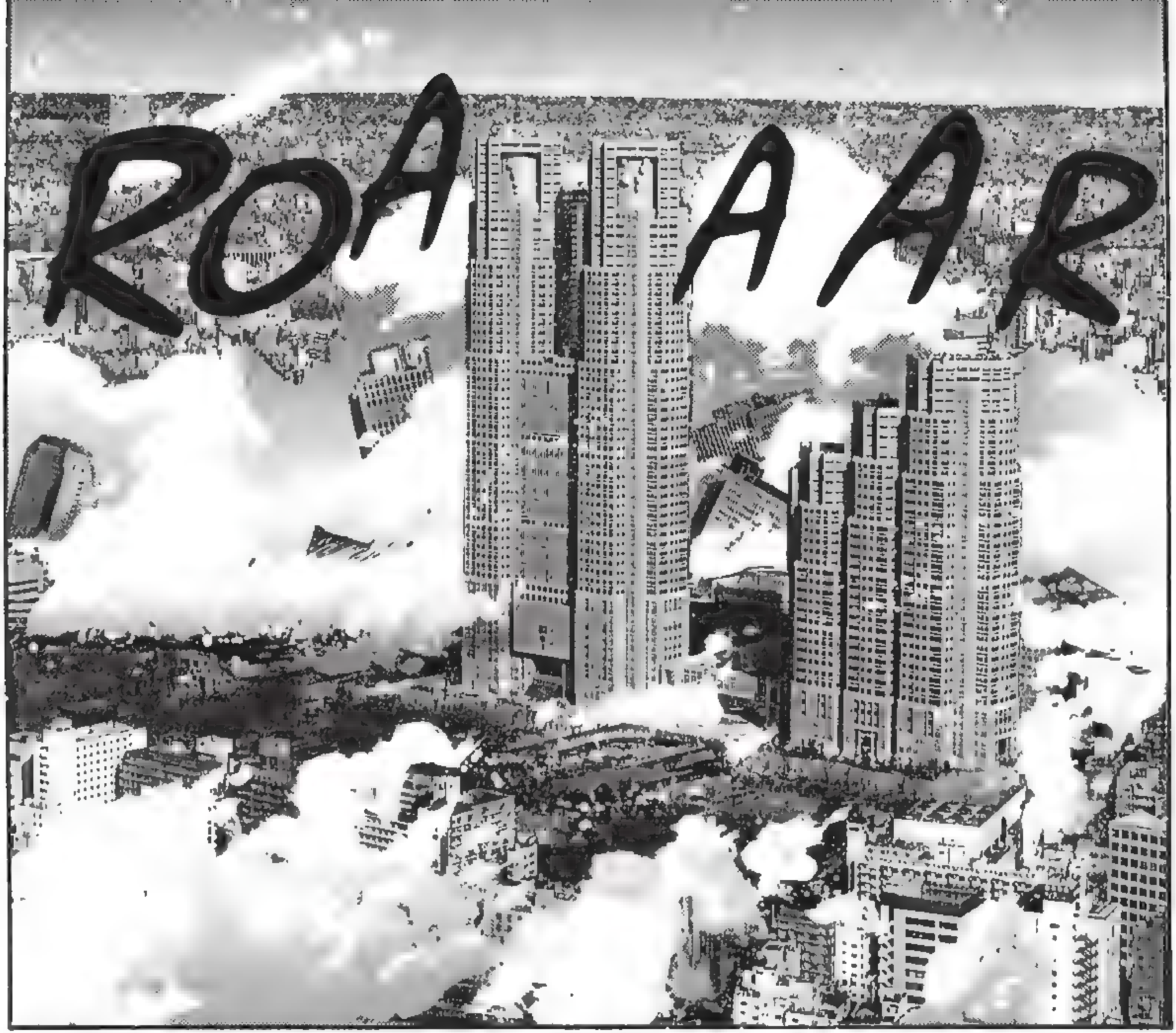

ZZT
YEBISU GARDEN PLACE
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT
KIRA KOO M

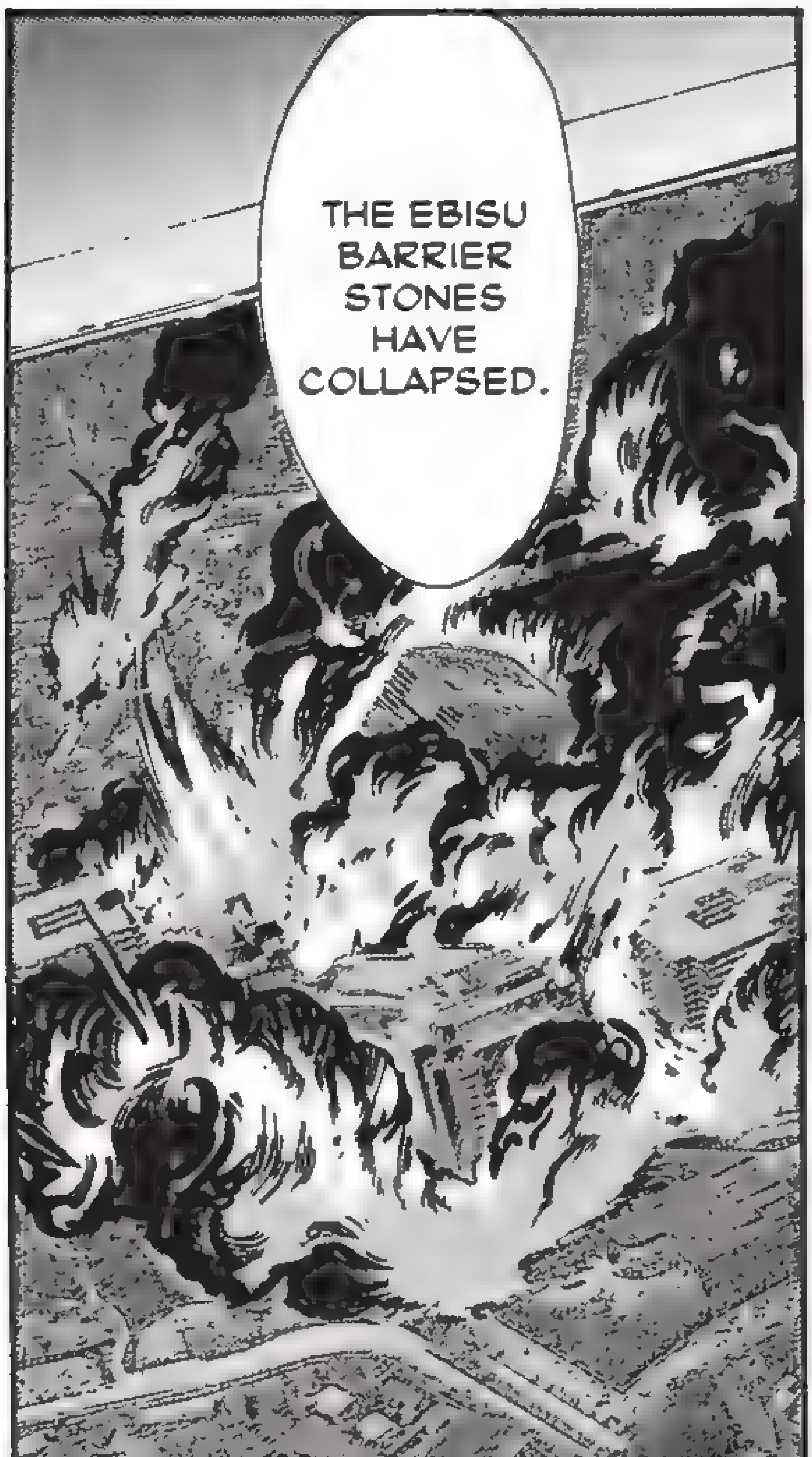

KRAK

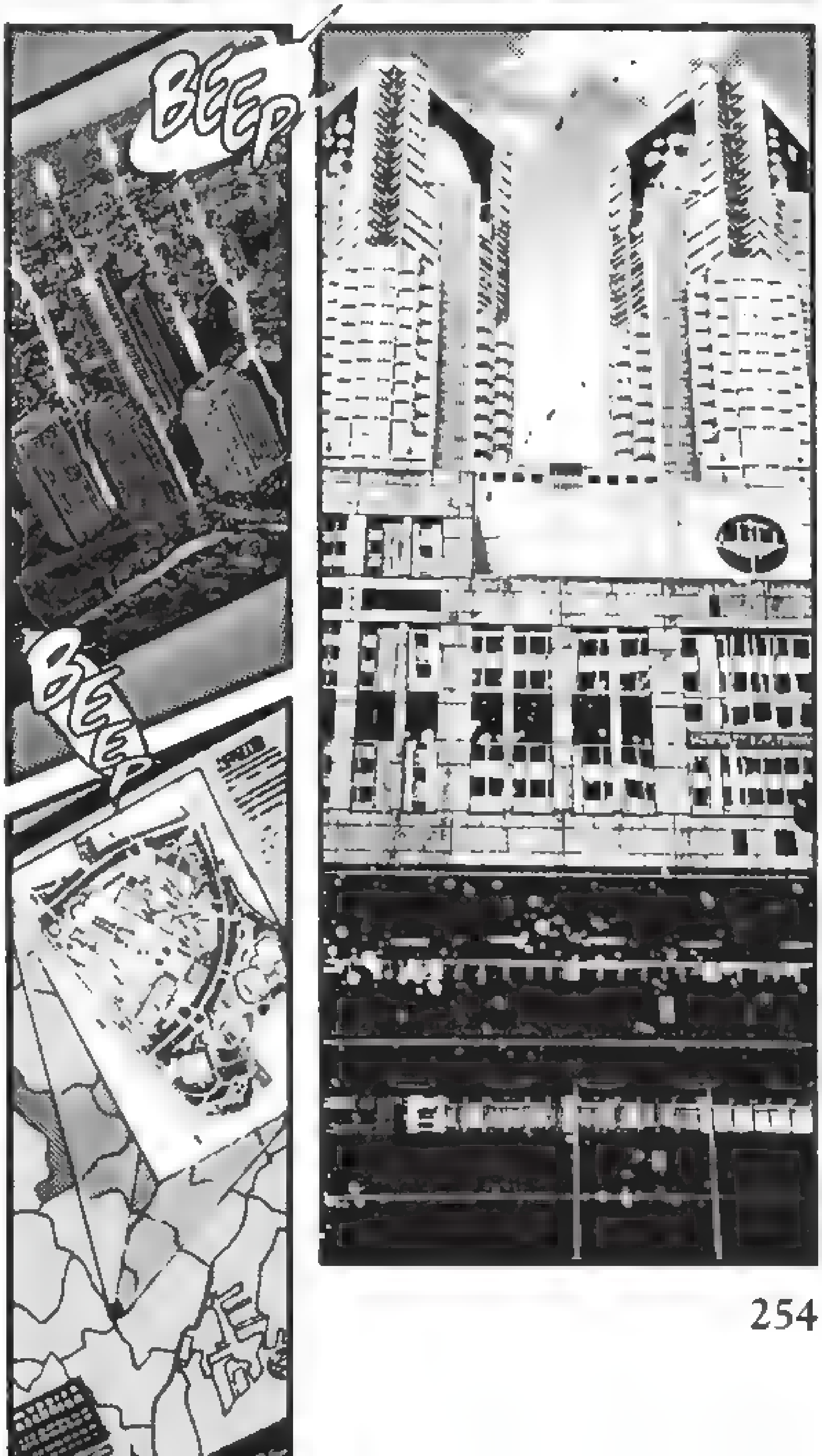

ZWOOO
ZWOOO
RMB R MB RMBRMB
RR MMBL
KERRAK
BAM BAM BAM
X
AIEEE...!
LOOK OUT!
BAM BAM BAM BAM
X
KRAAAK

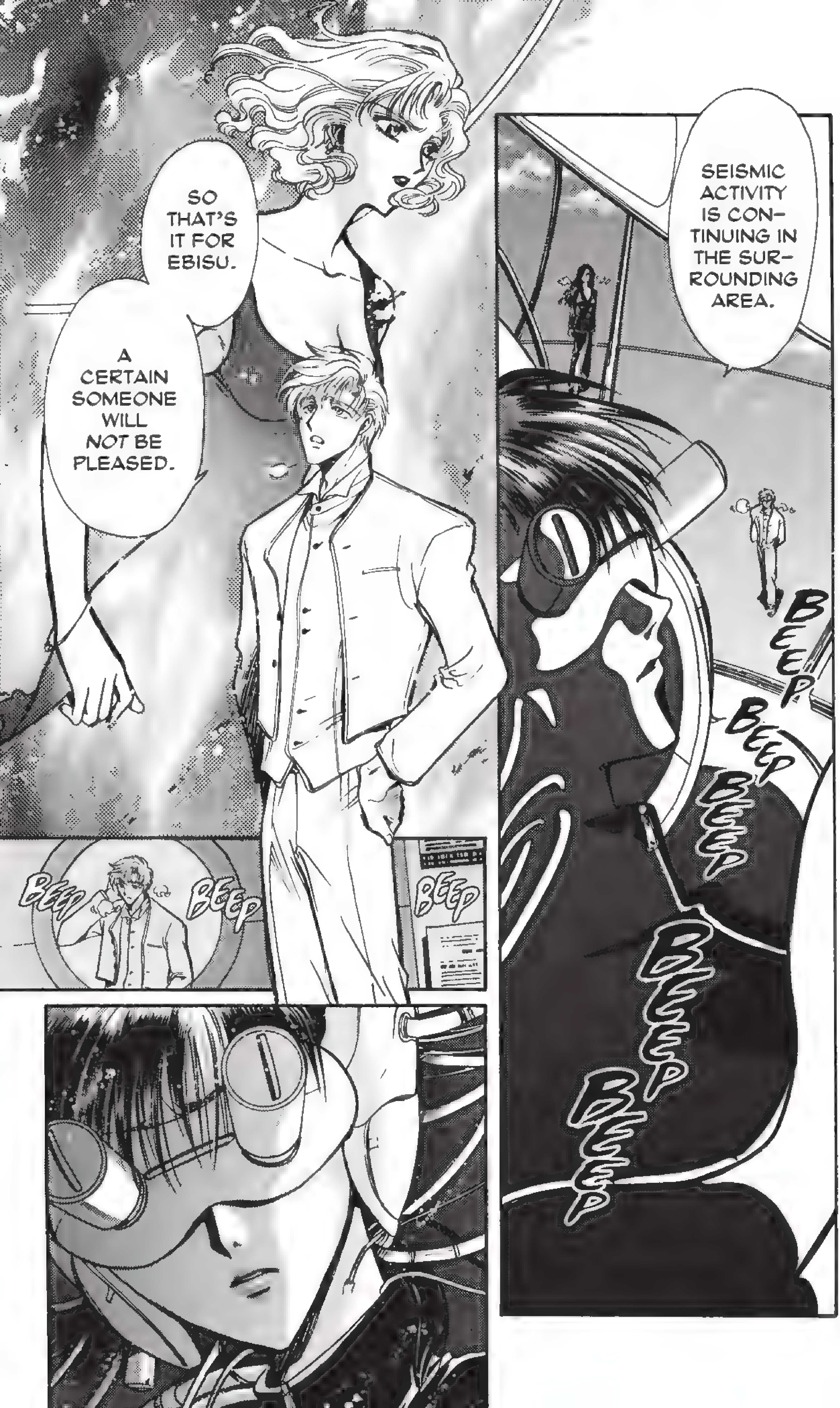
DOOM
KBOOOM
BOOM
BOOOM
KRKAM

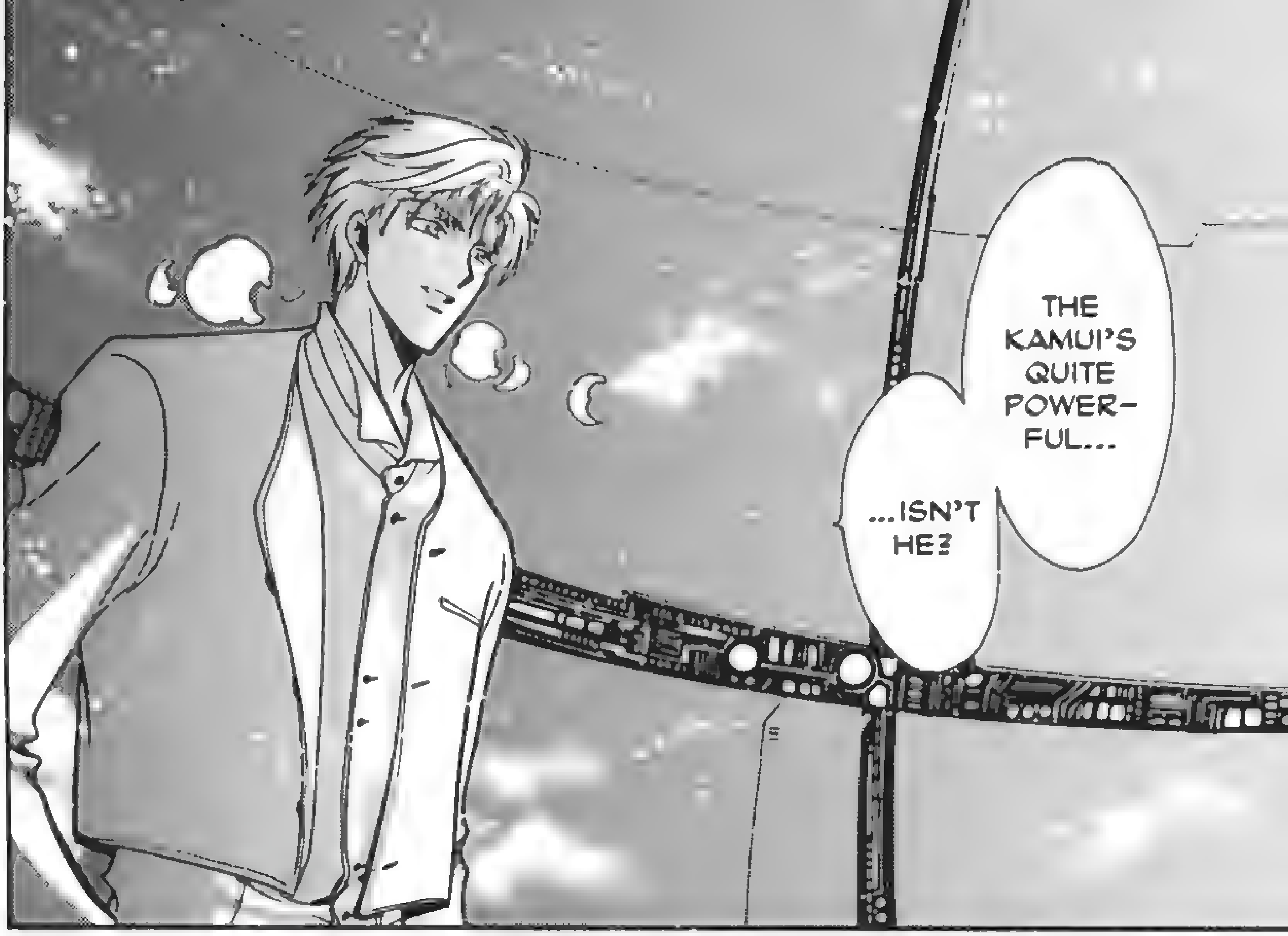

THERE ARE THOSE WHO DESPERATELY CLING TO LIFE, WHO DO NOT WISH TO DIE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
BUT THERE ARE VERY FEW OF THEM.
EVEN HERE.

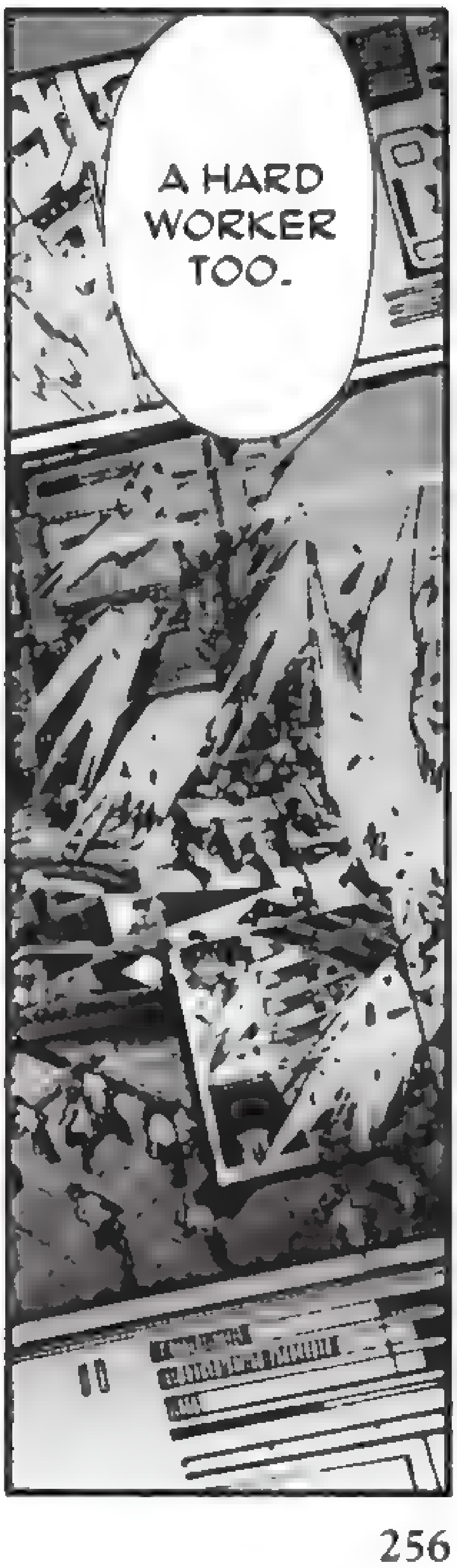

ROOAAAR

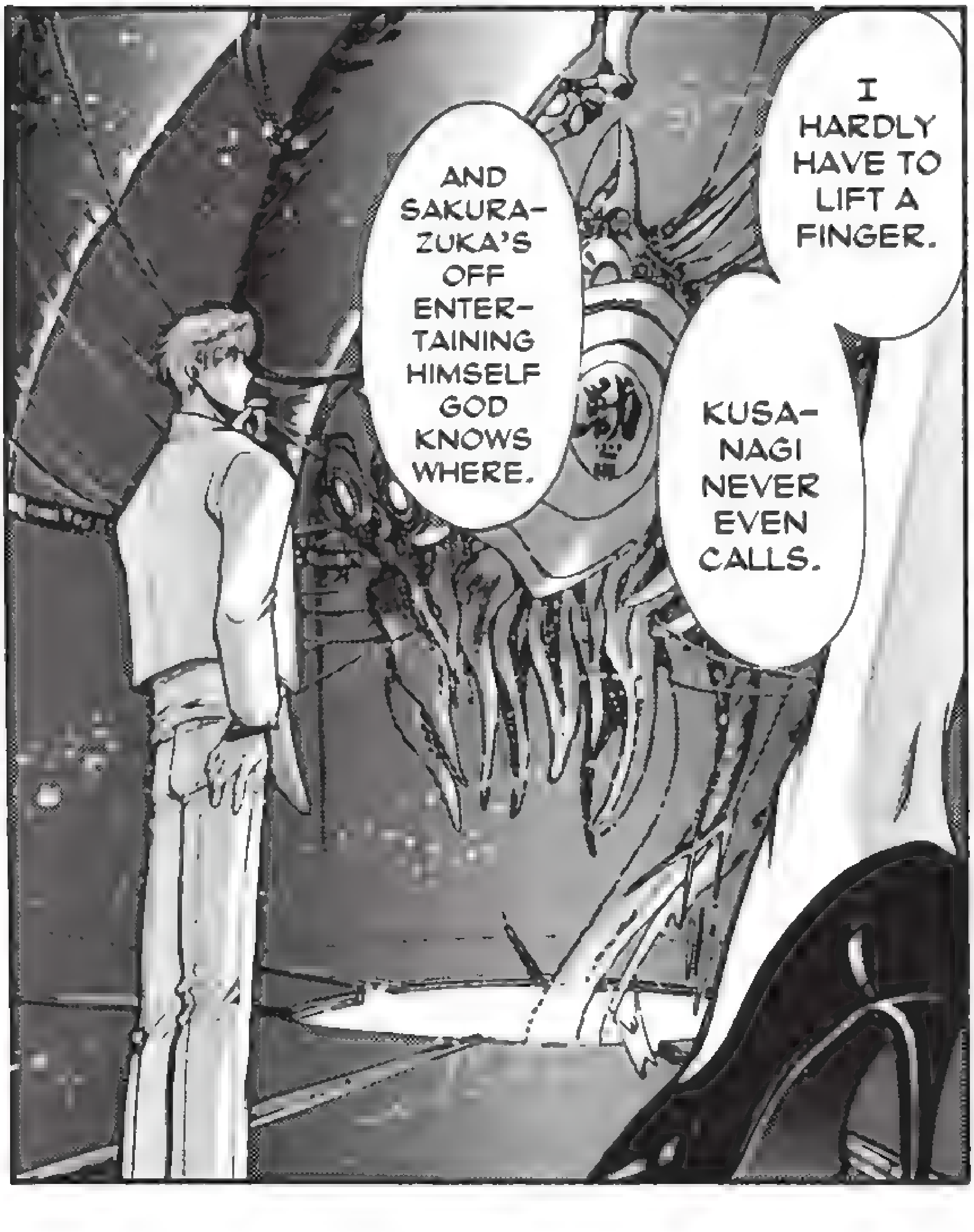

THE EBISU BARRIER STONES HAVE COLLAPSED.

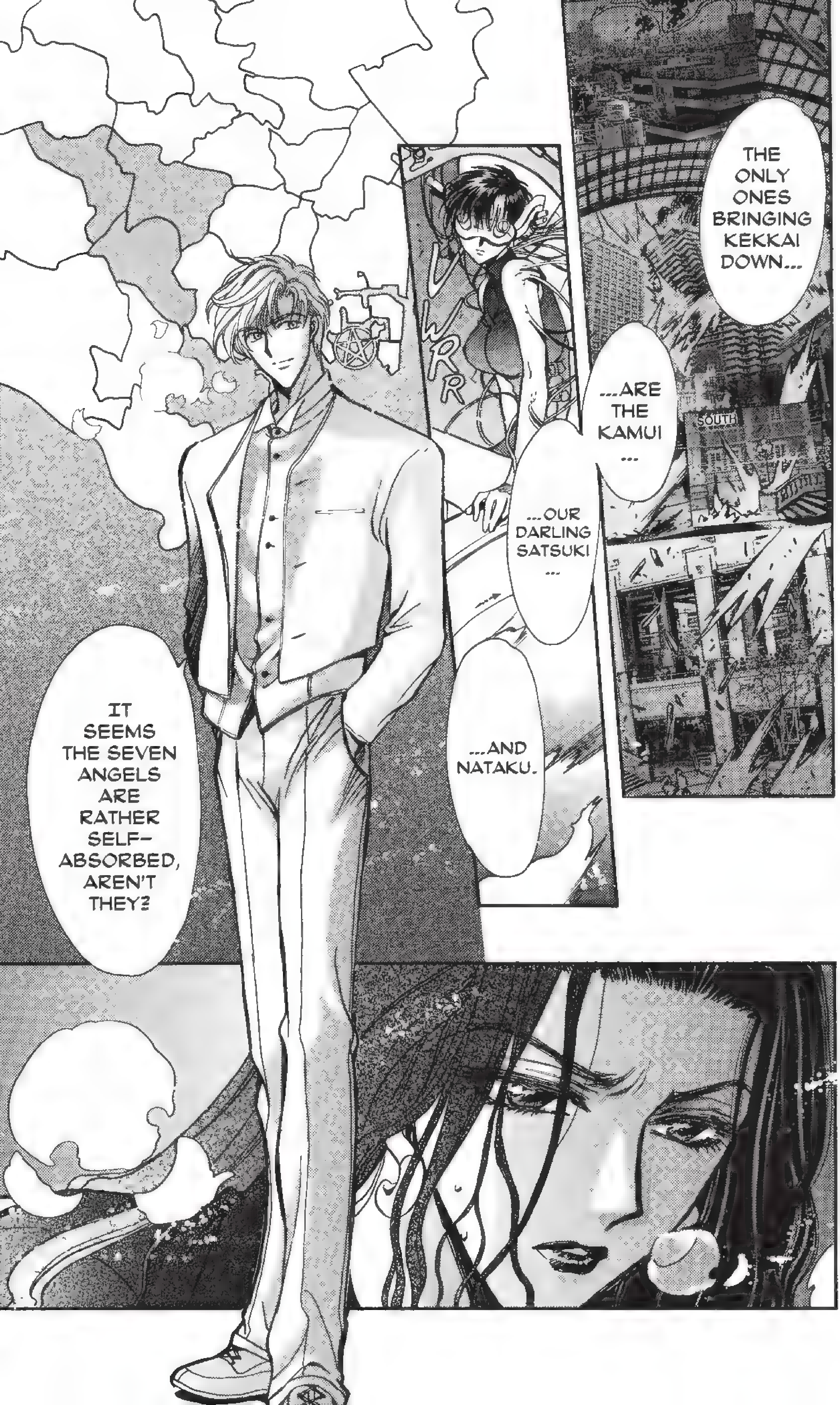

BEEP
BEEP

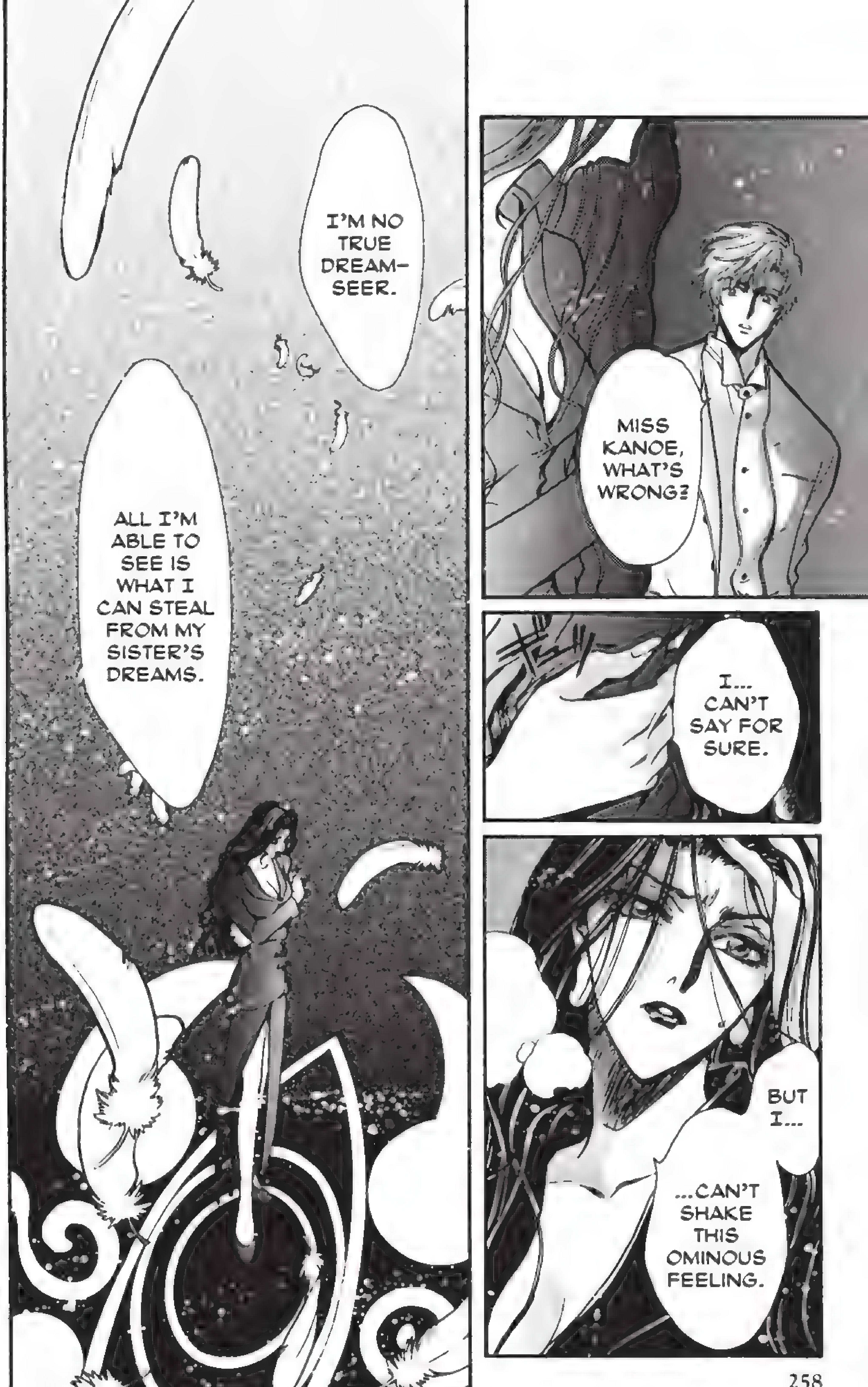

SEISMIC ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP
SO THAT'S IT FOR EBISU.
A CERTAIN SOMEONE WILL *NOT* BE PLEASED.
BEEP BEEP BEEP

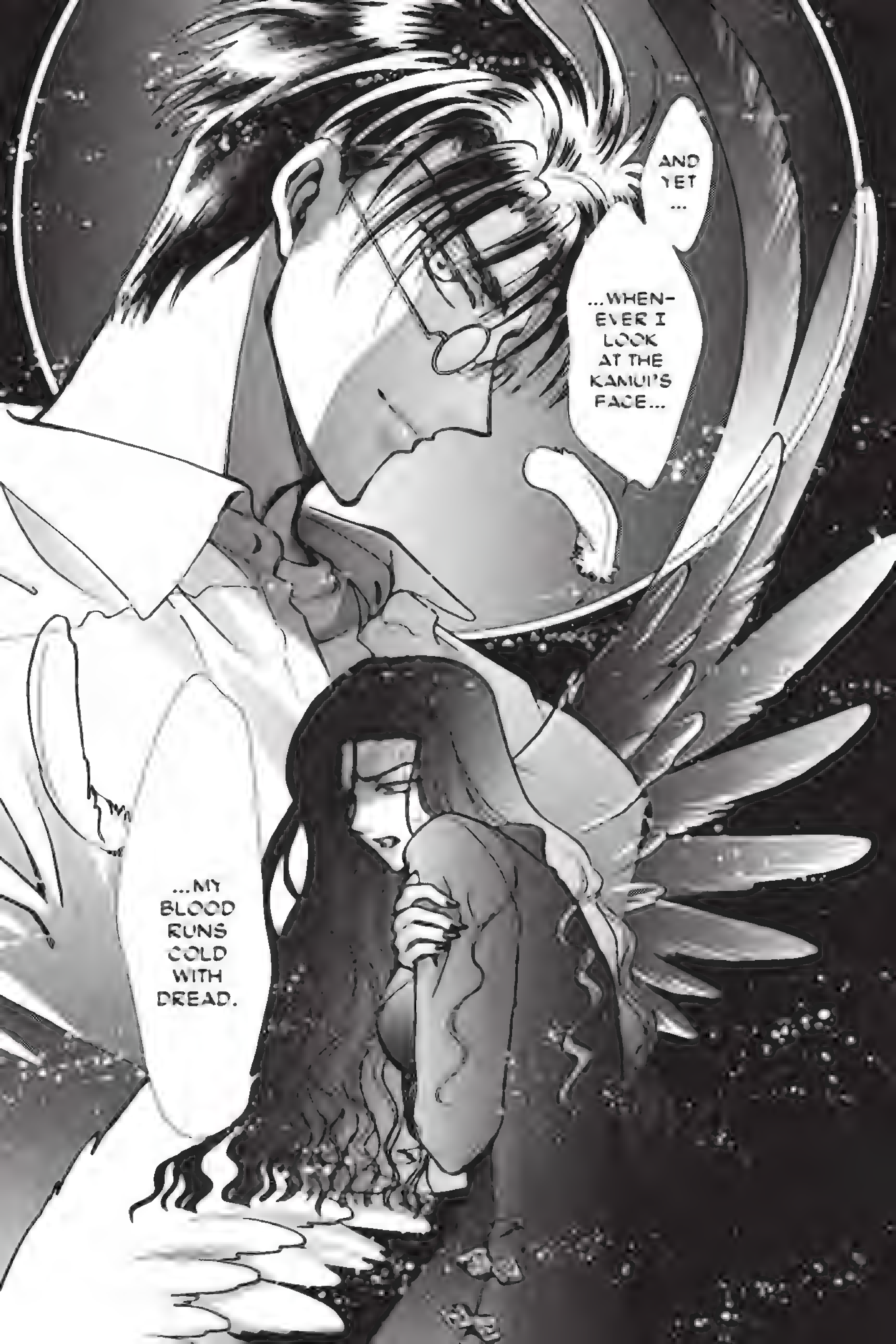

THE KAMUI'S QUITE POWERFUL...
...ISN'T HE?

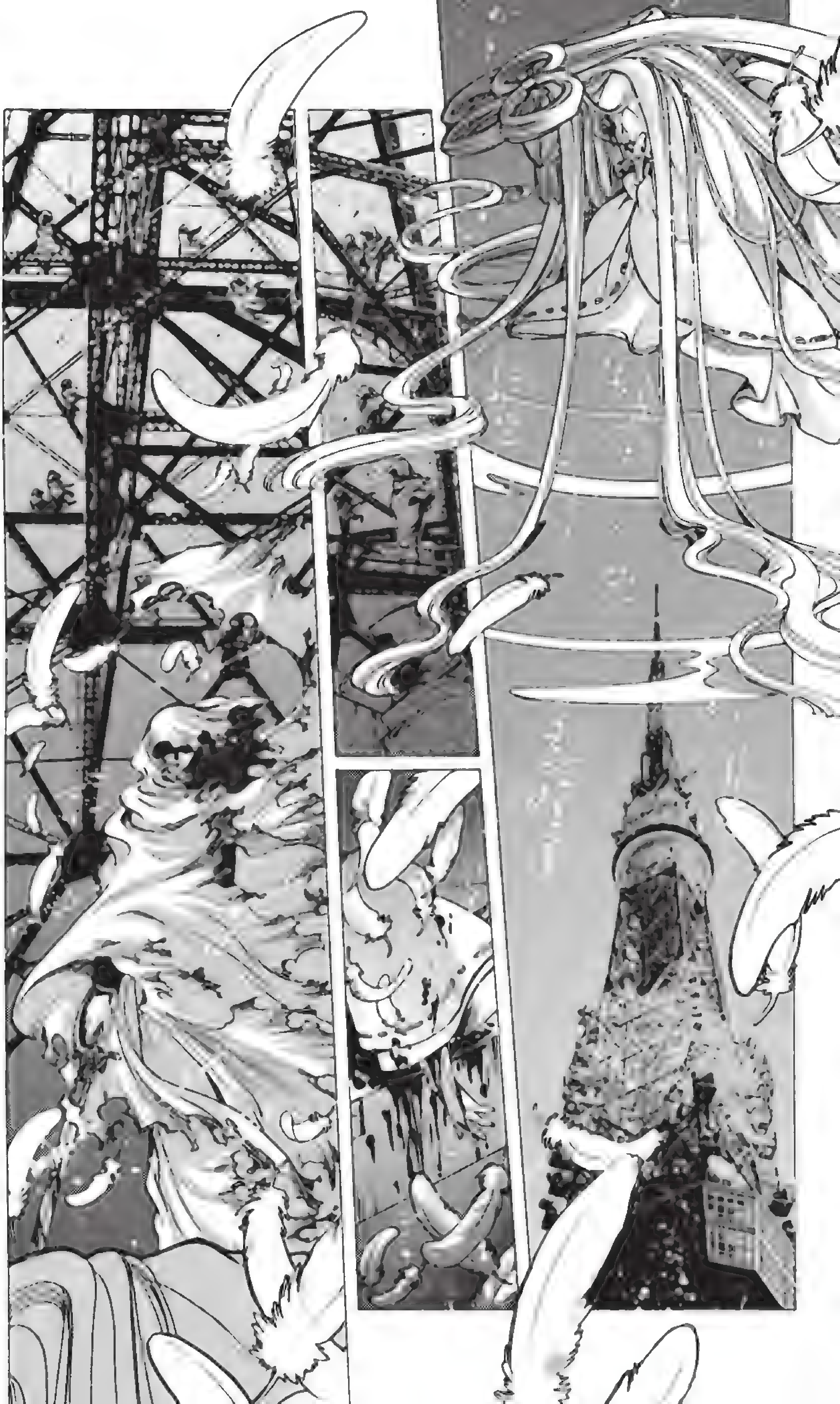

A HARD WORKER TOO.

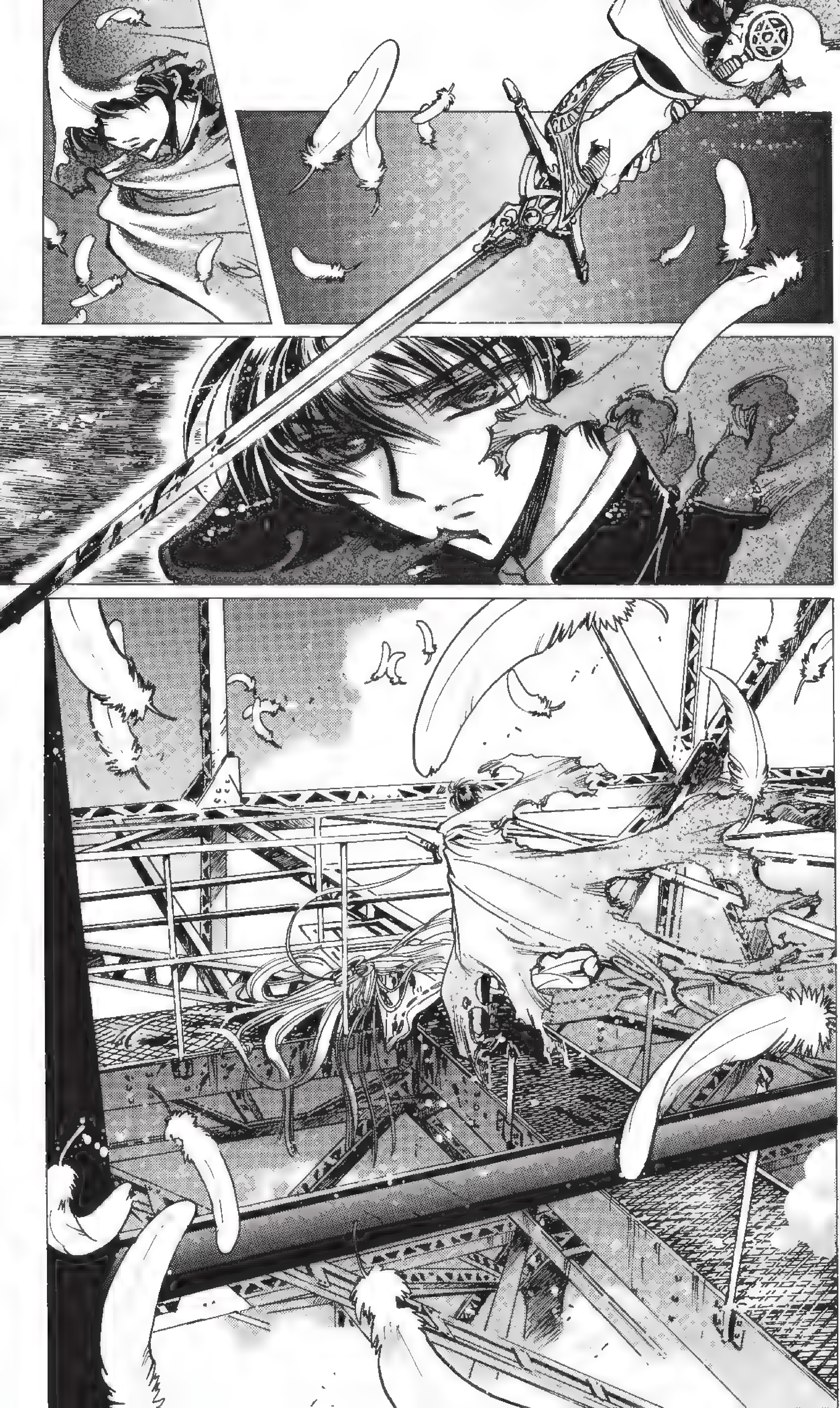

I HARDLY HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER.
KUSANAGI NEVER EVEN CALLS.
AND SAKURAZUKA'S OFF ENTERTAINING HIMSELF GOD KNOWS WHERE.

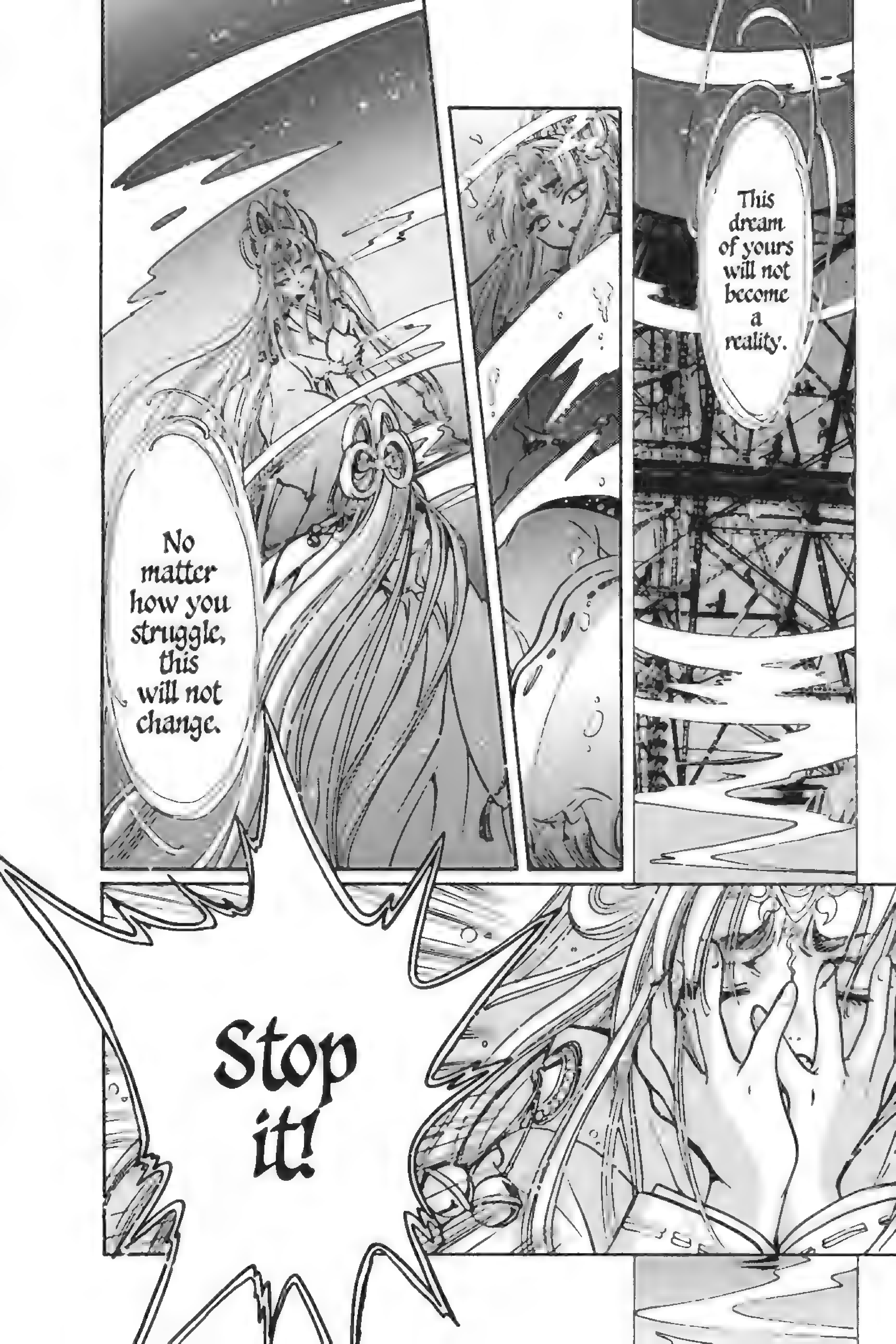

THE ONLY ONES BRINGING KEKKAI DOWN...
...ARE THE KAMUI...
...OUR DARLING SATSUKI...
...AND NATAKU.
VWRR
SOUTH
IT SEEMS THE SEVEN ANGELS ARE RATHER SELF-ABSORBED, AREN'T THEY?

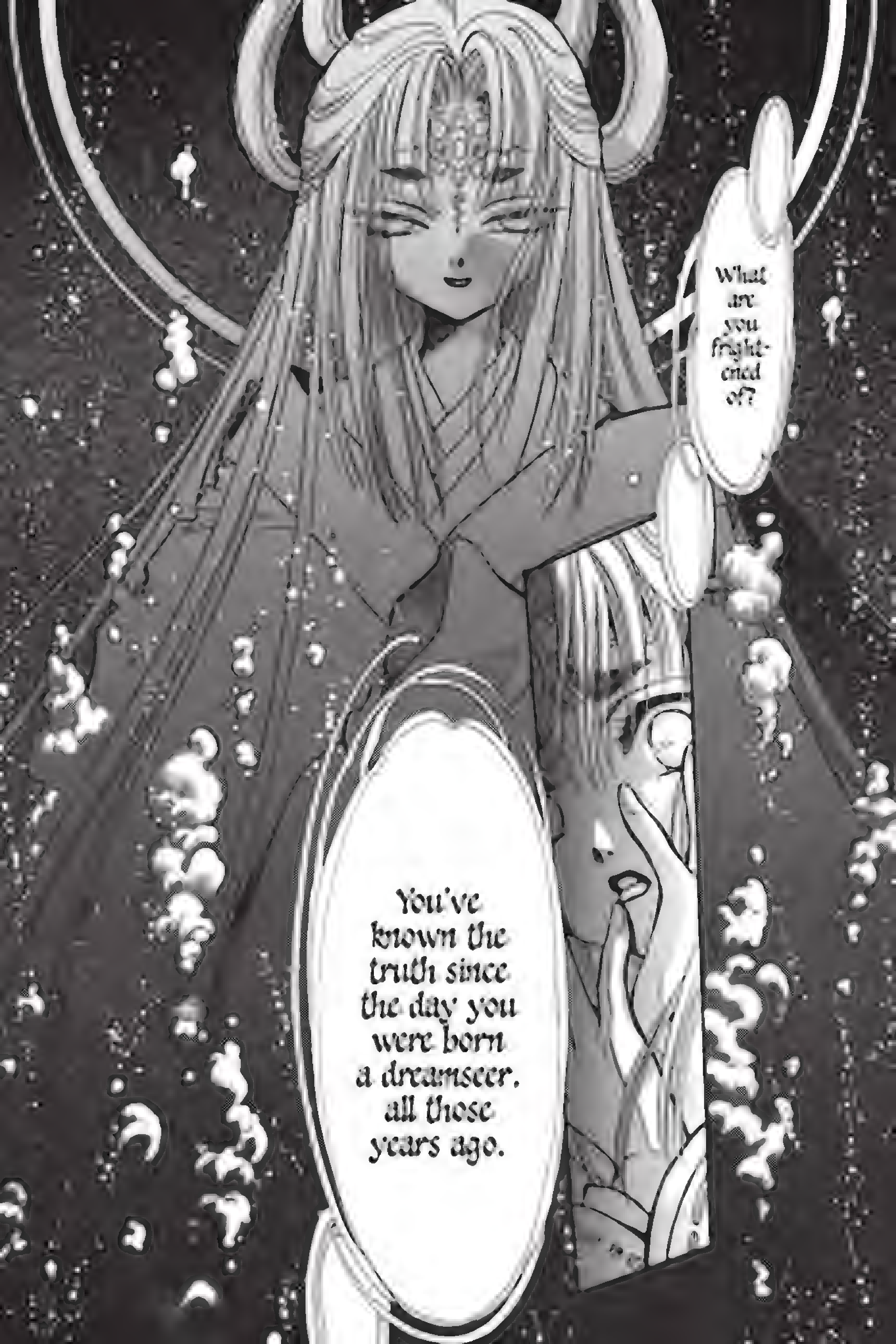

I'M NO TRUE DREAMSEER.
ALL I'M ABLE TO SEE IS WHAT I CAN STEAL FROM MY SISTER'S DREAMS.
MISS KANOE, WHAT'S WRONG?
I... CAN'T SAY FOR SURE.
BUT I...
...CAN'T SHAKE THIS OMINOUS FEELING.

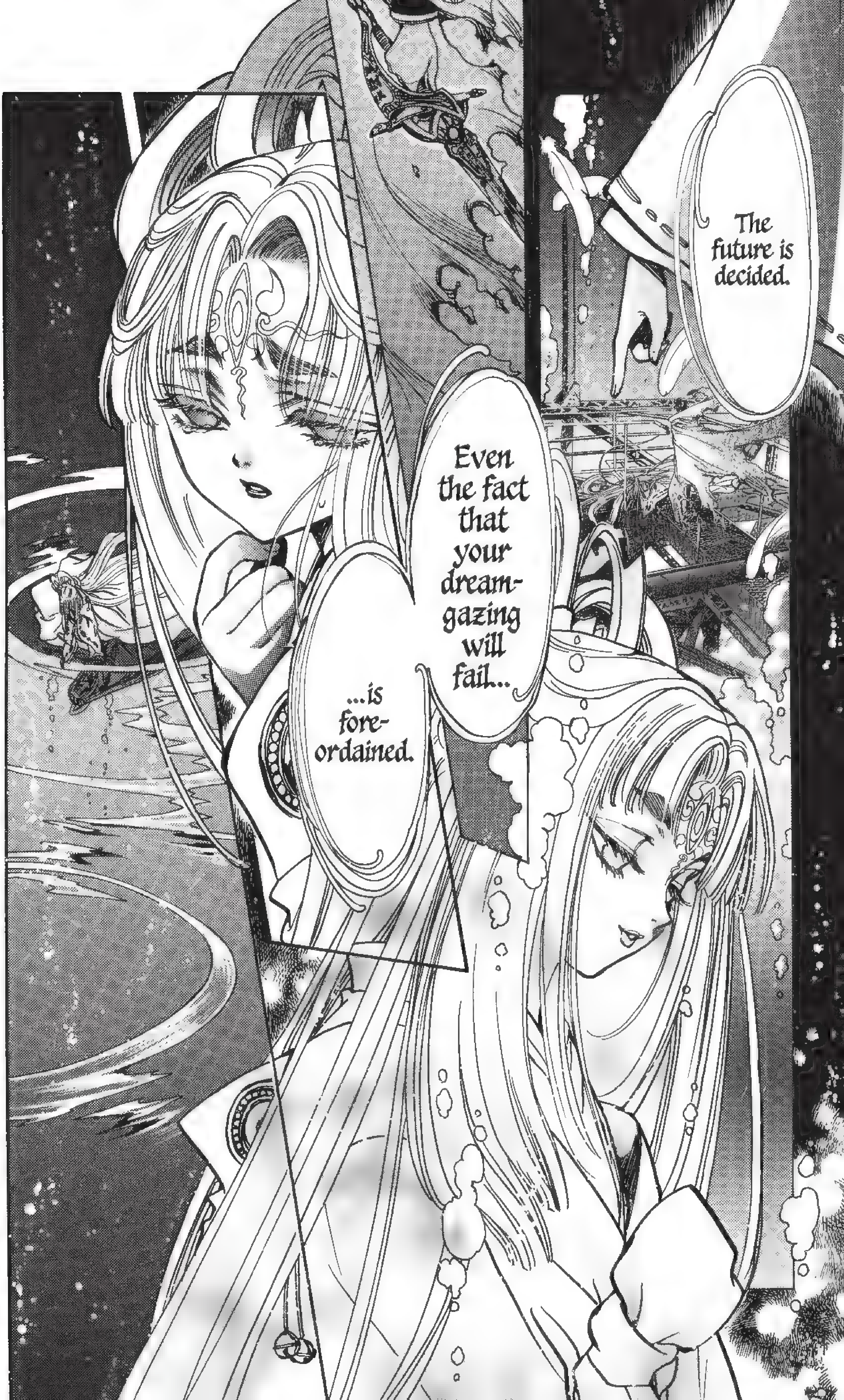

AND YET ...
...WHENEVER I LOOK AT THE KAMUI'S FACE...
...MY BLOOD RUNS COLD WITH DREAD.

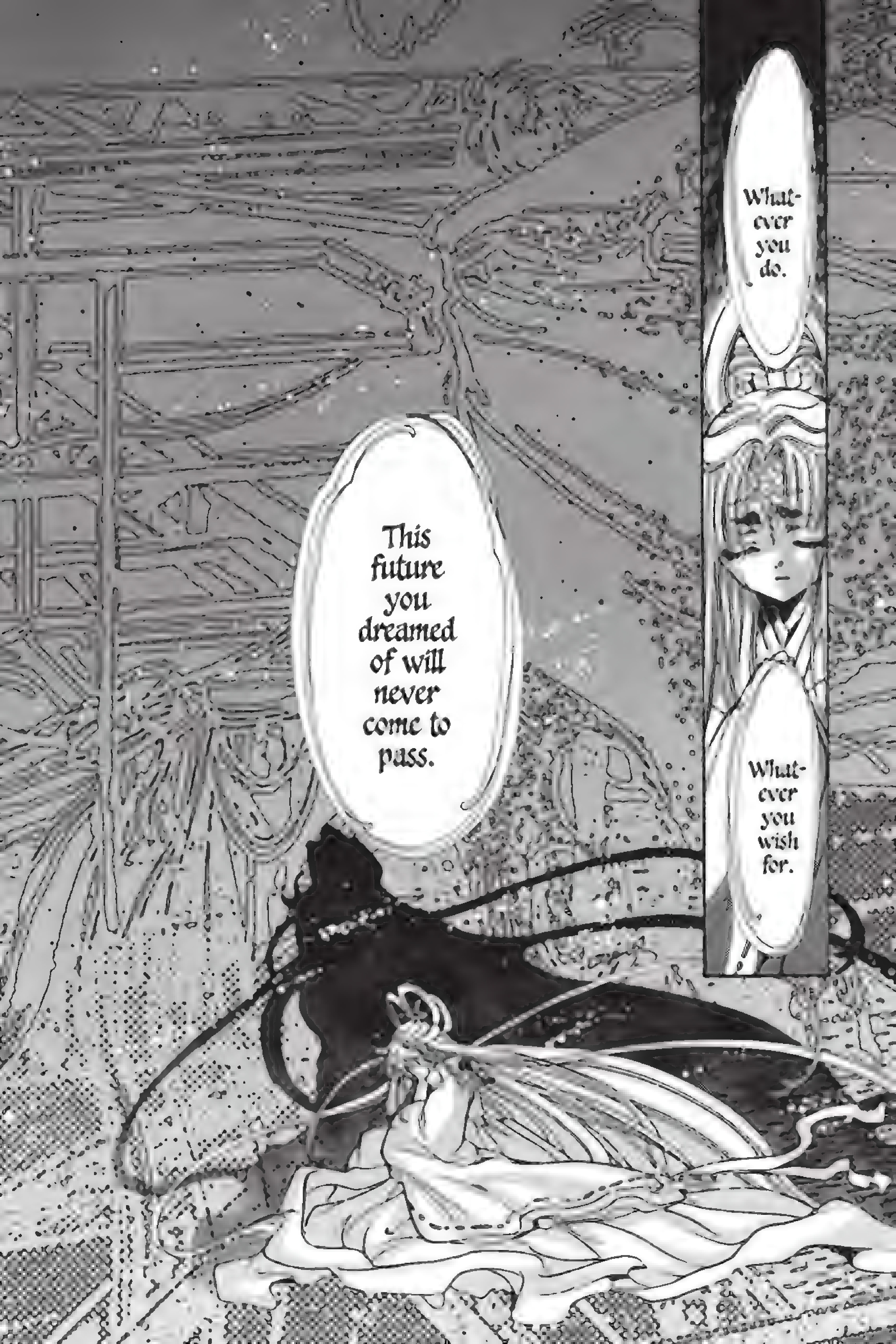


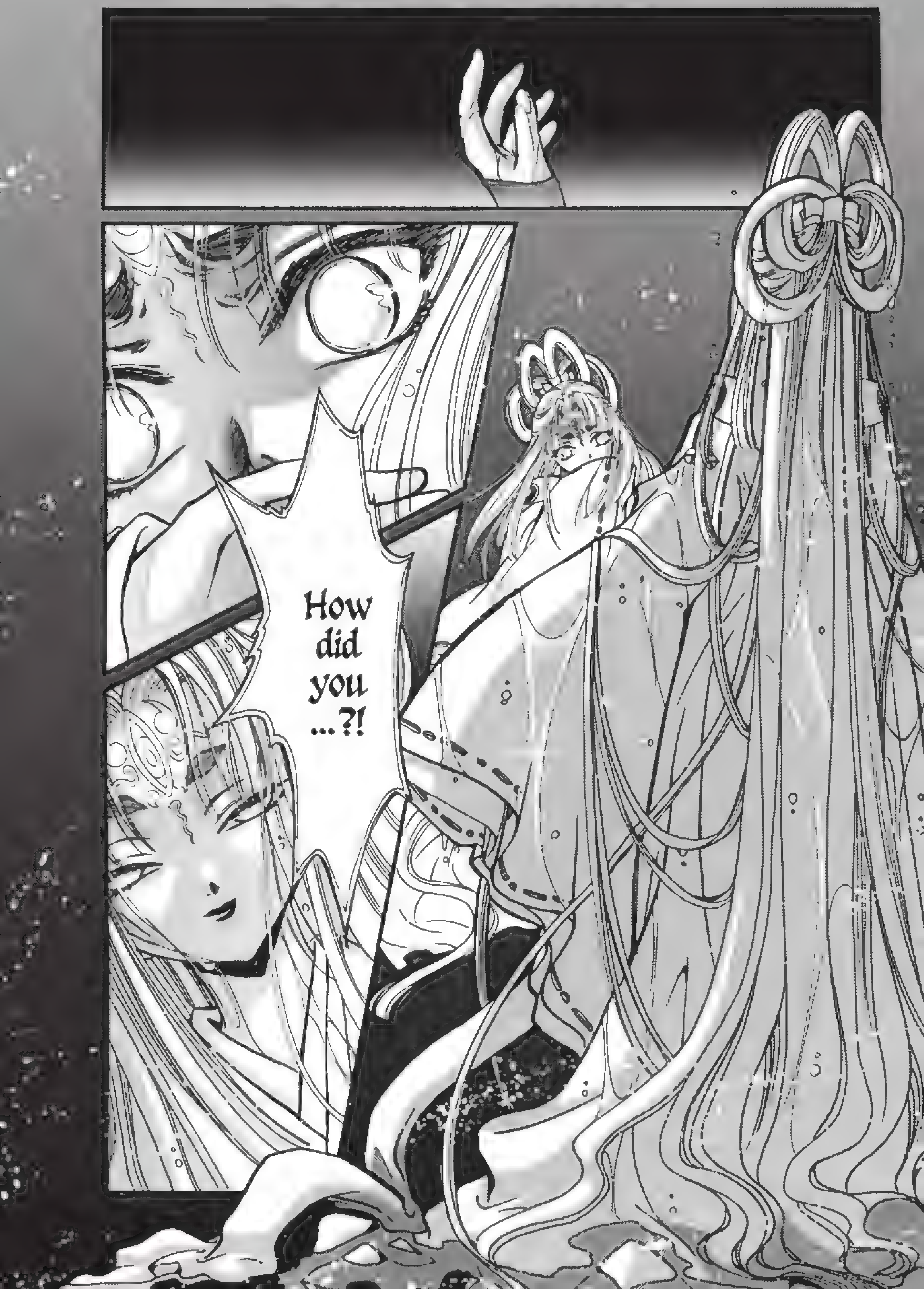


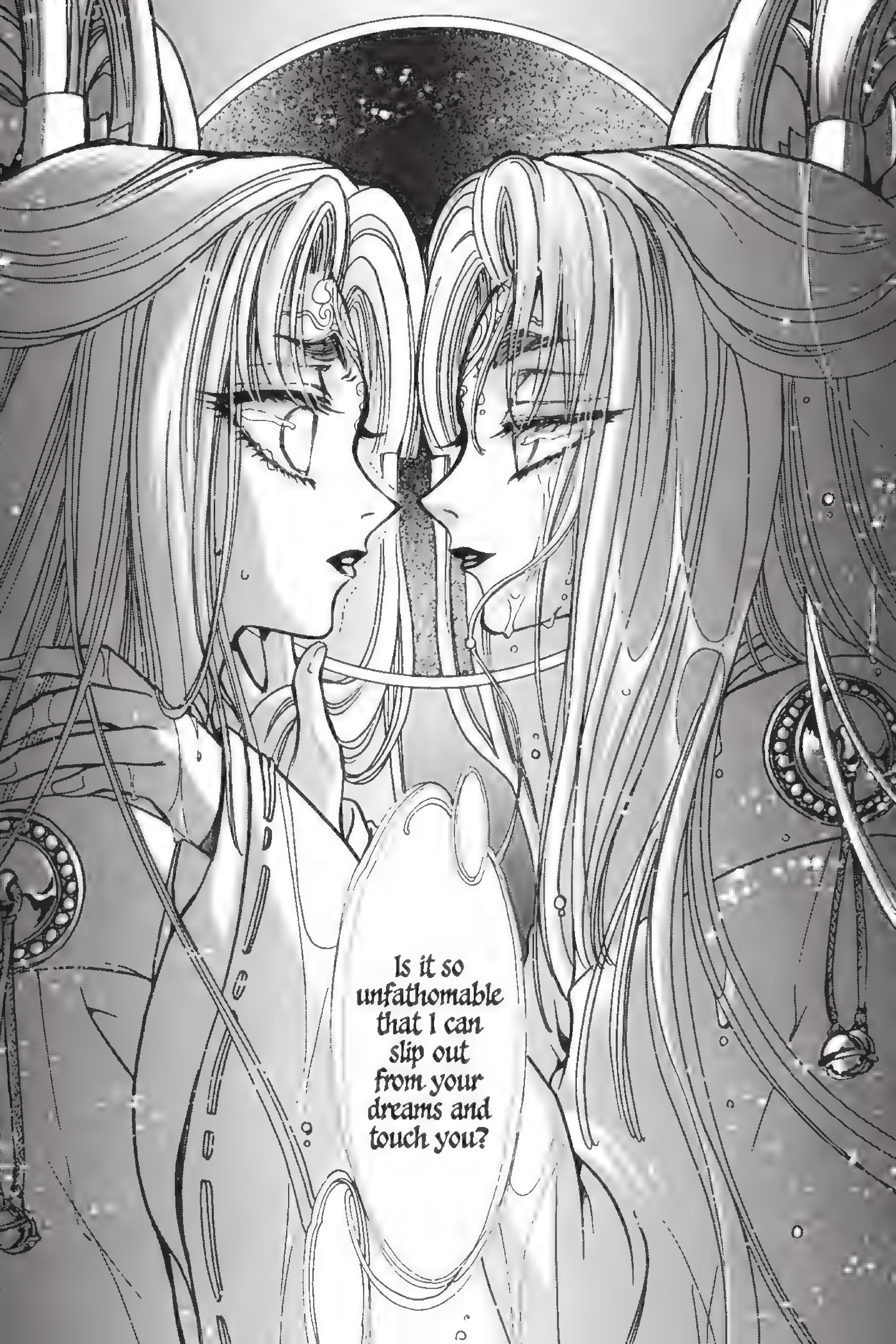

This dream of yours will not become a reality.
No matter how you struggle, this will not change.
Stop it!

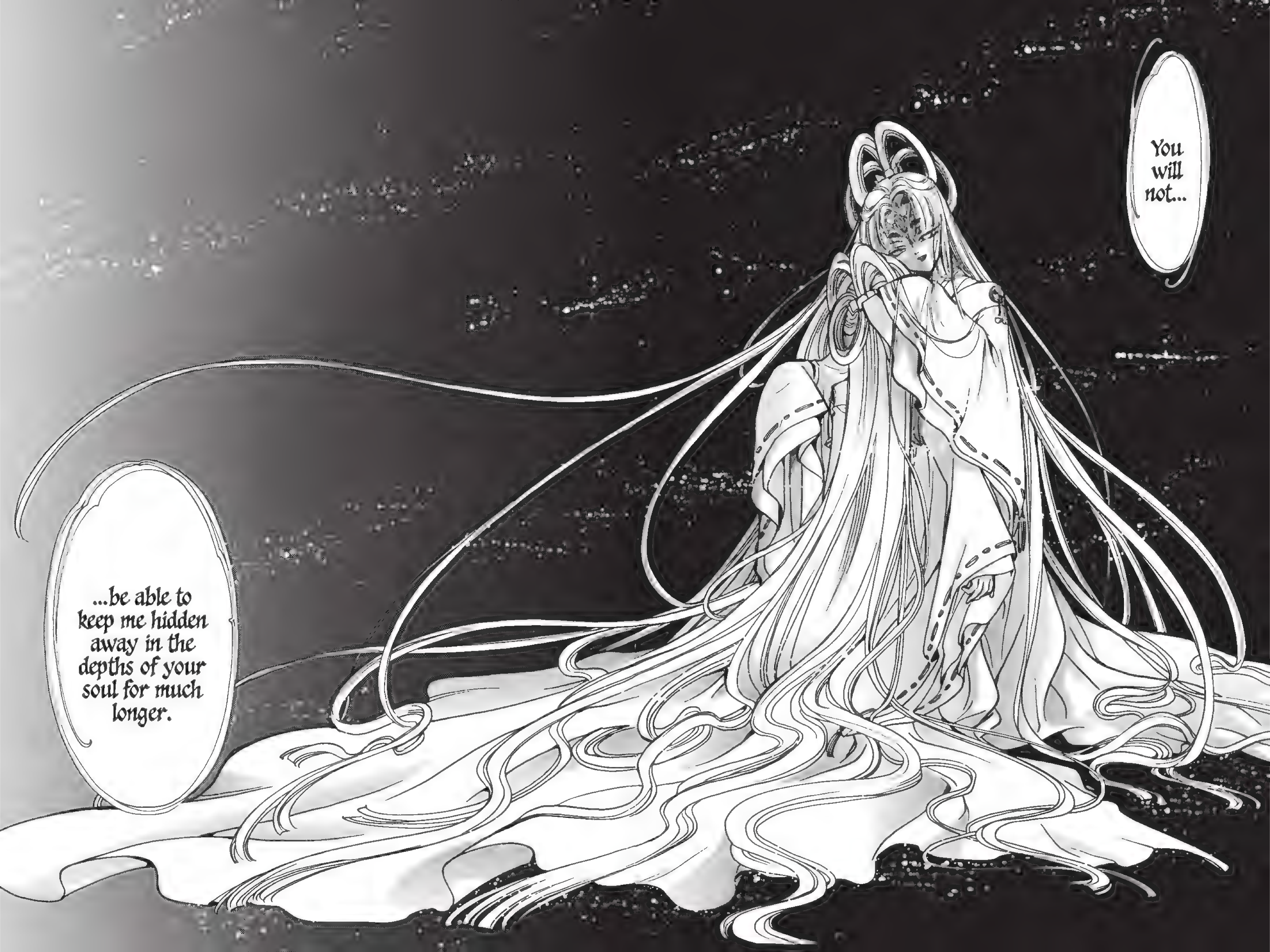

What are you fright- ened of?
You've known the truth since the day you were born a dreamseer, all those years ago.

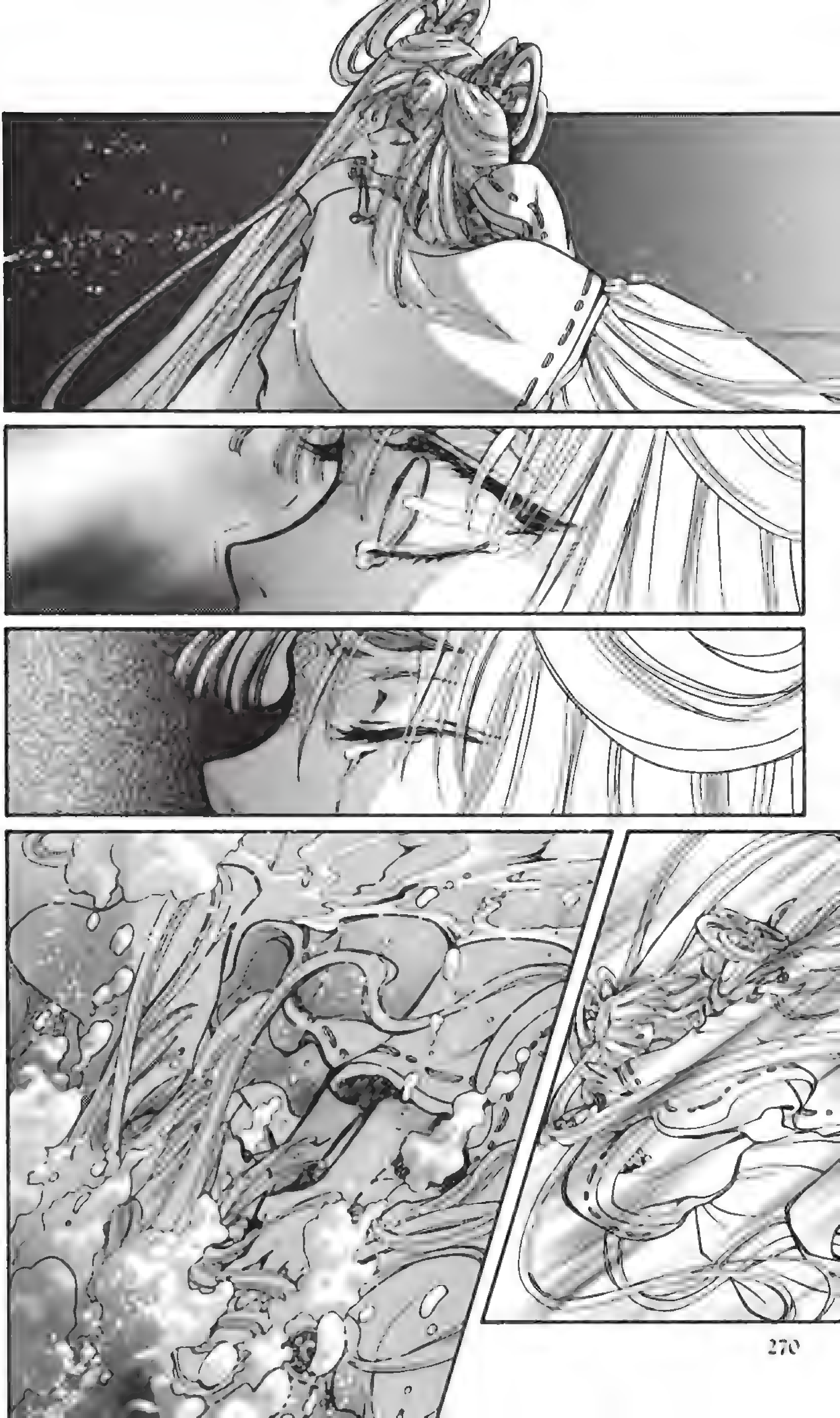

The future is decided.
Even the fact that your dream-gazing will fail...
...is fore-ordained.

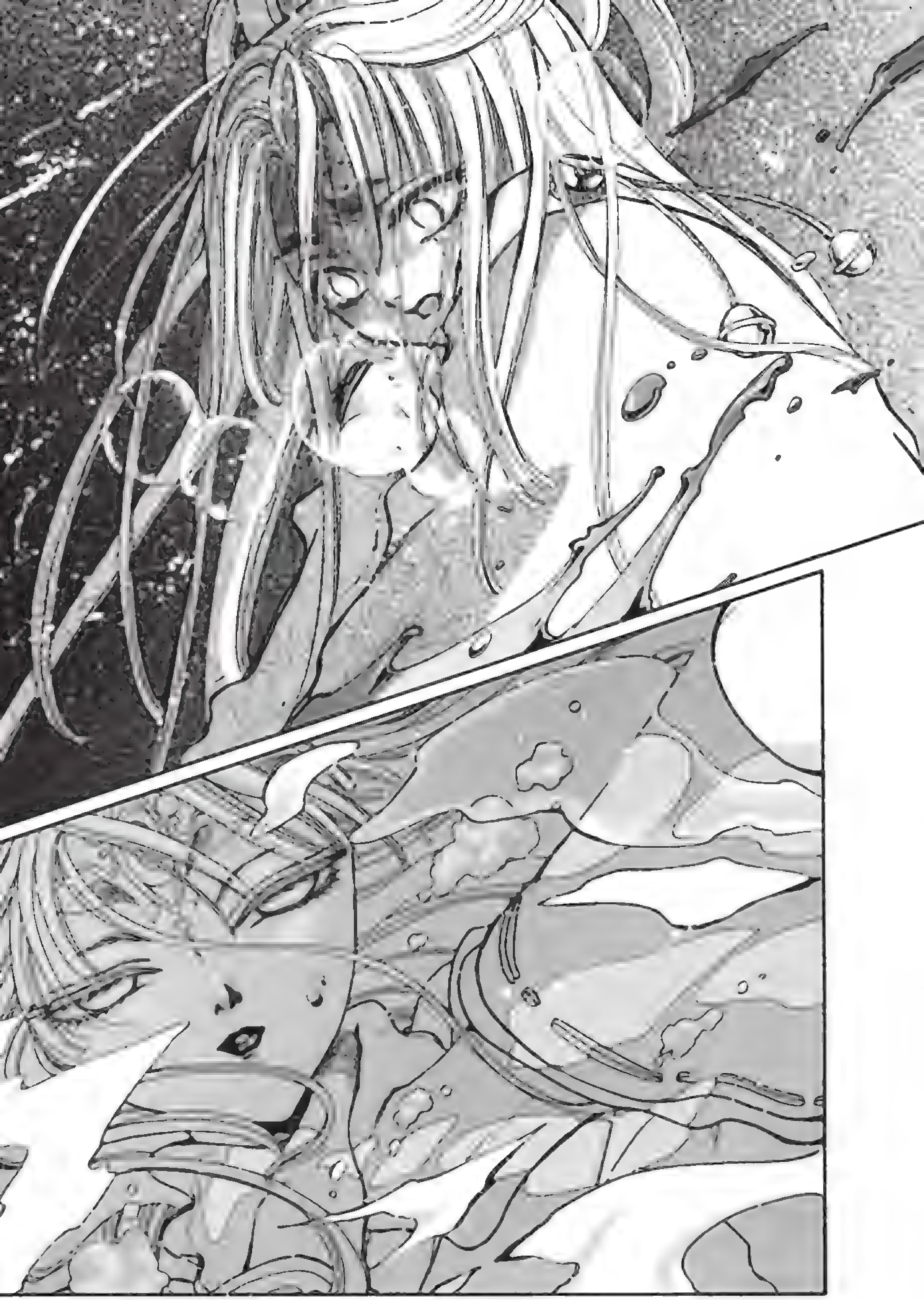

Whatever you do.
Whatever you wish for.
This future you dreamed of will never come to pass.

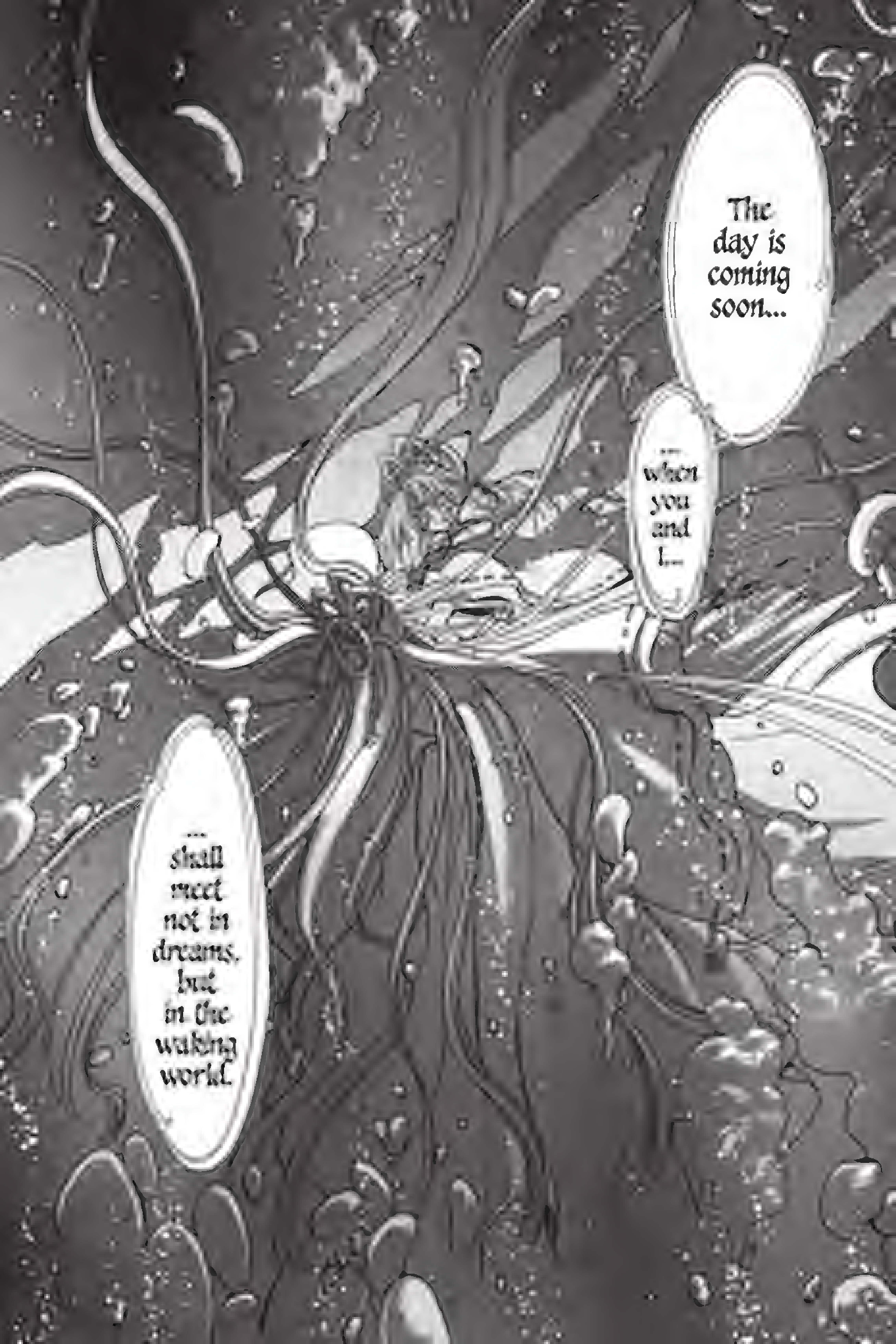

How did you ...?!

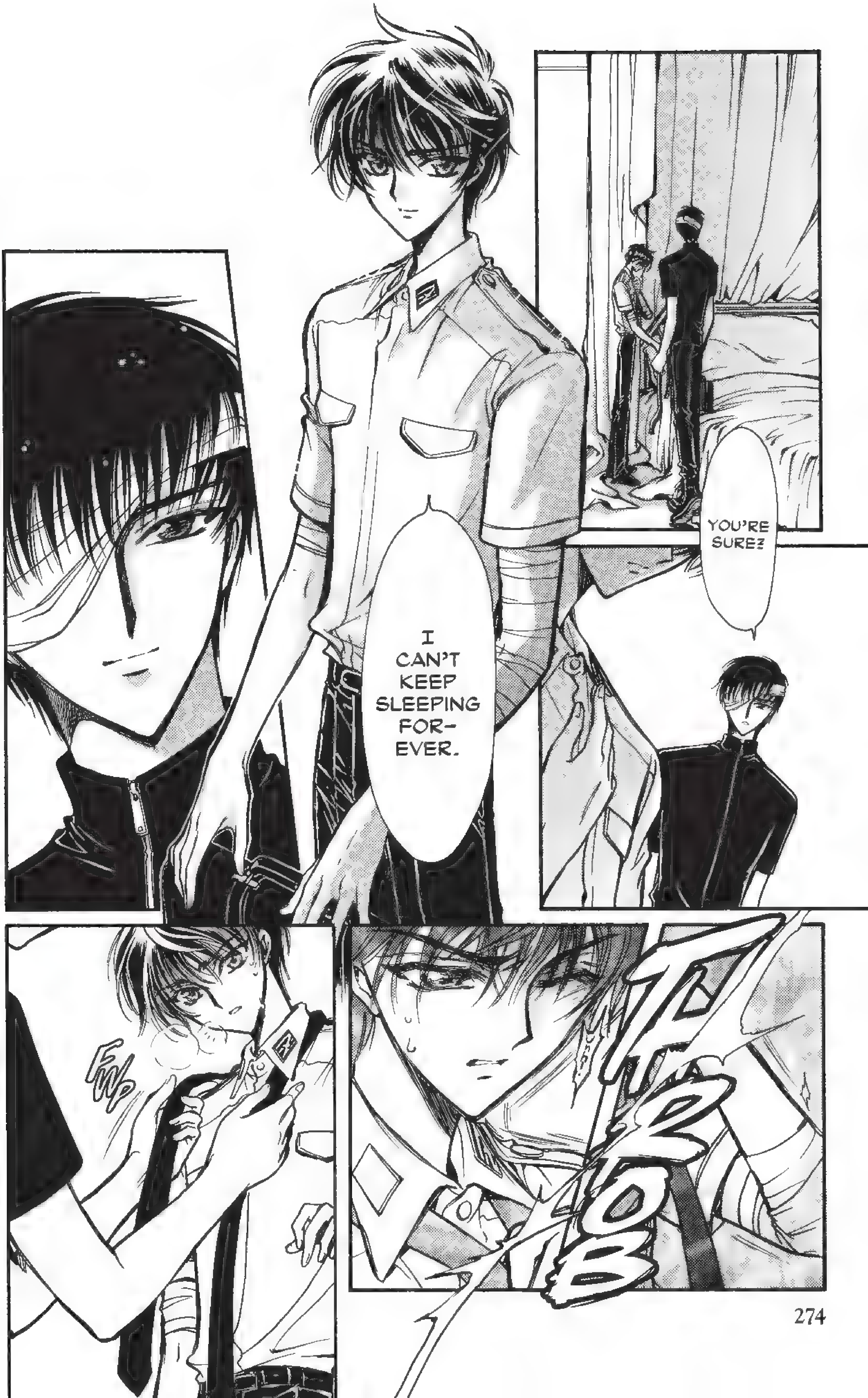

Is it so unfathomable that I can slip out from your dreams and touch you?

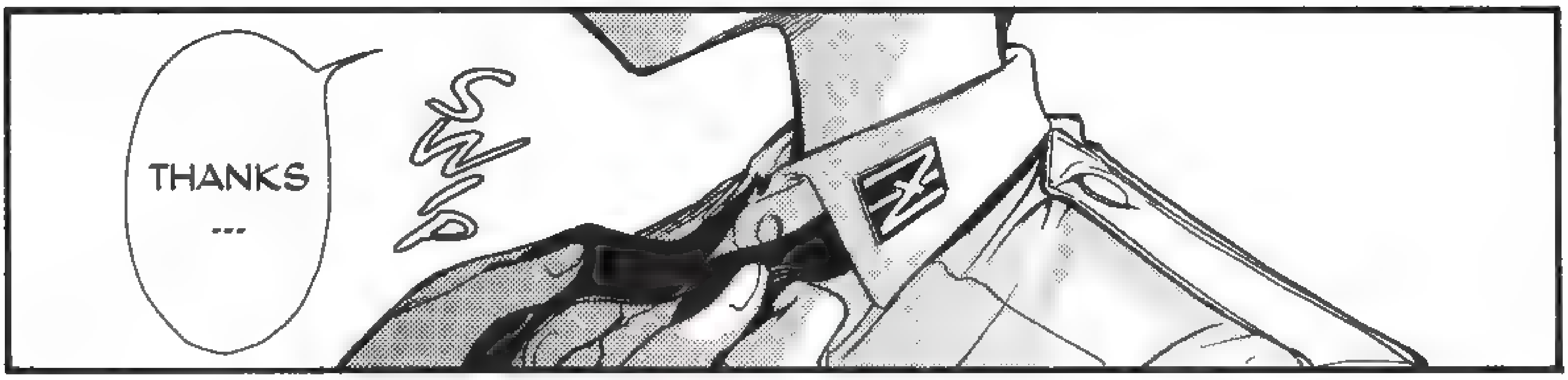

You will not...
...be able to keep me hidden away in the depths of your soul for much longer.

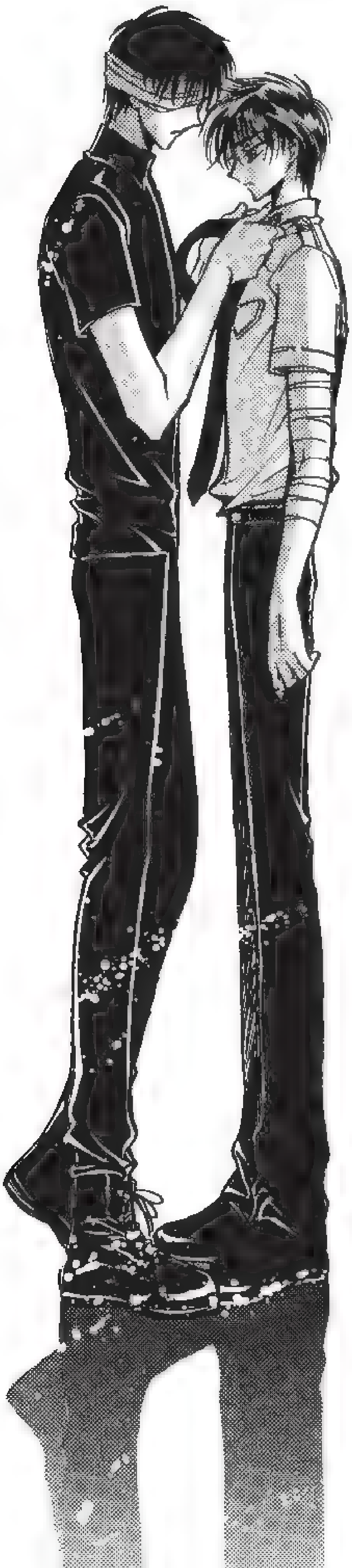


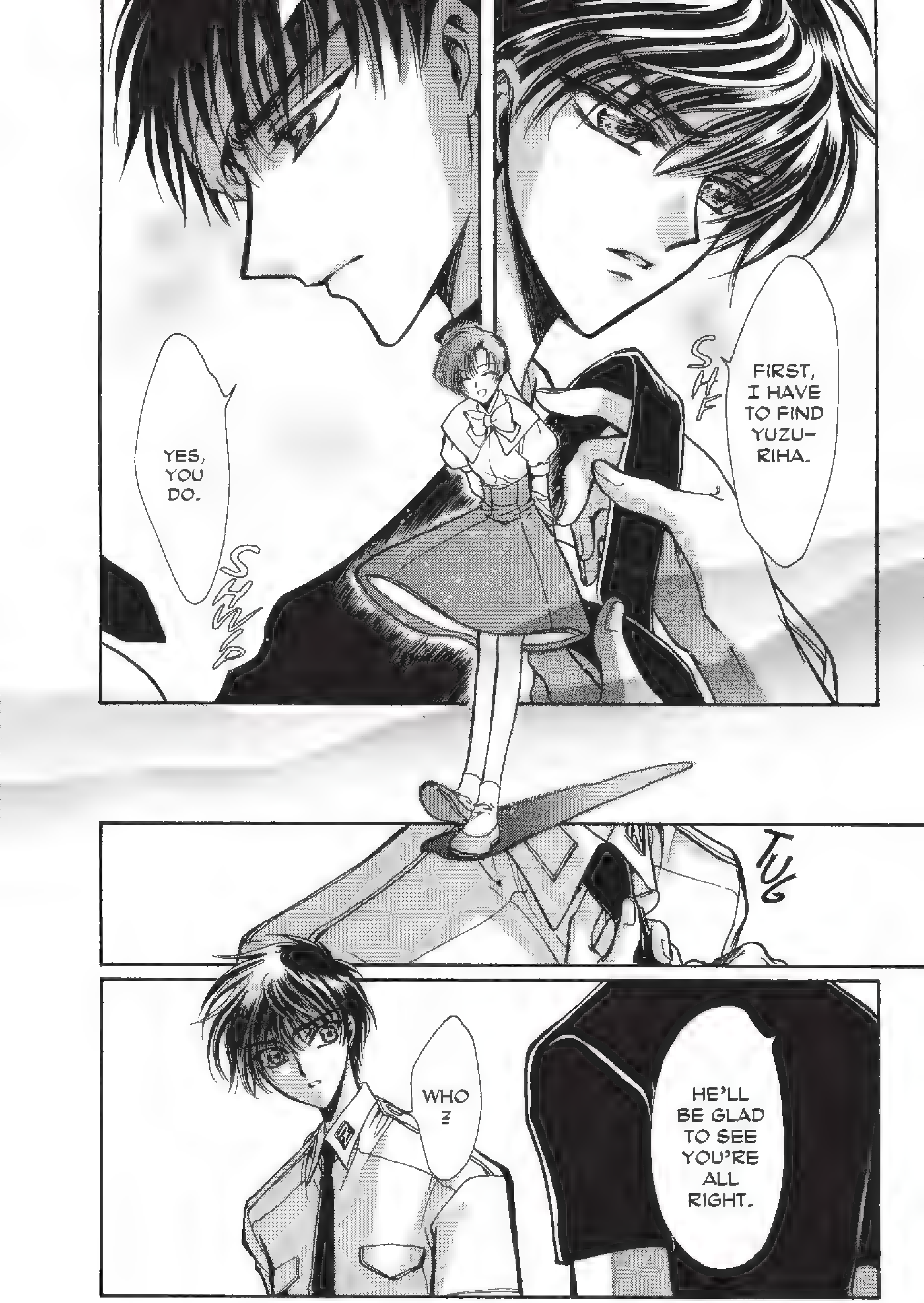


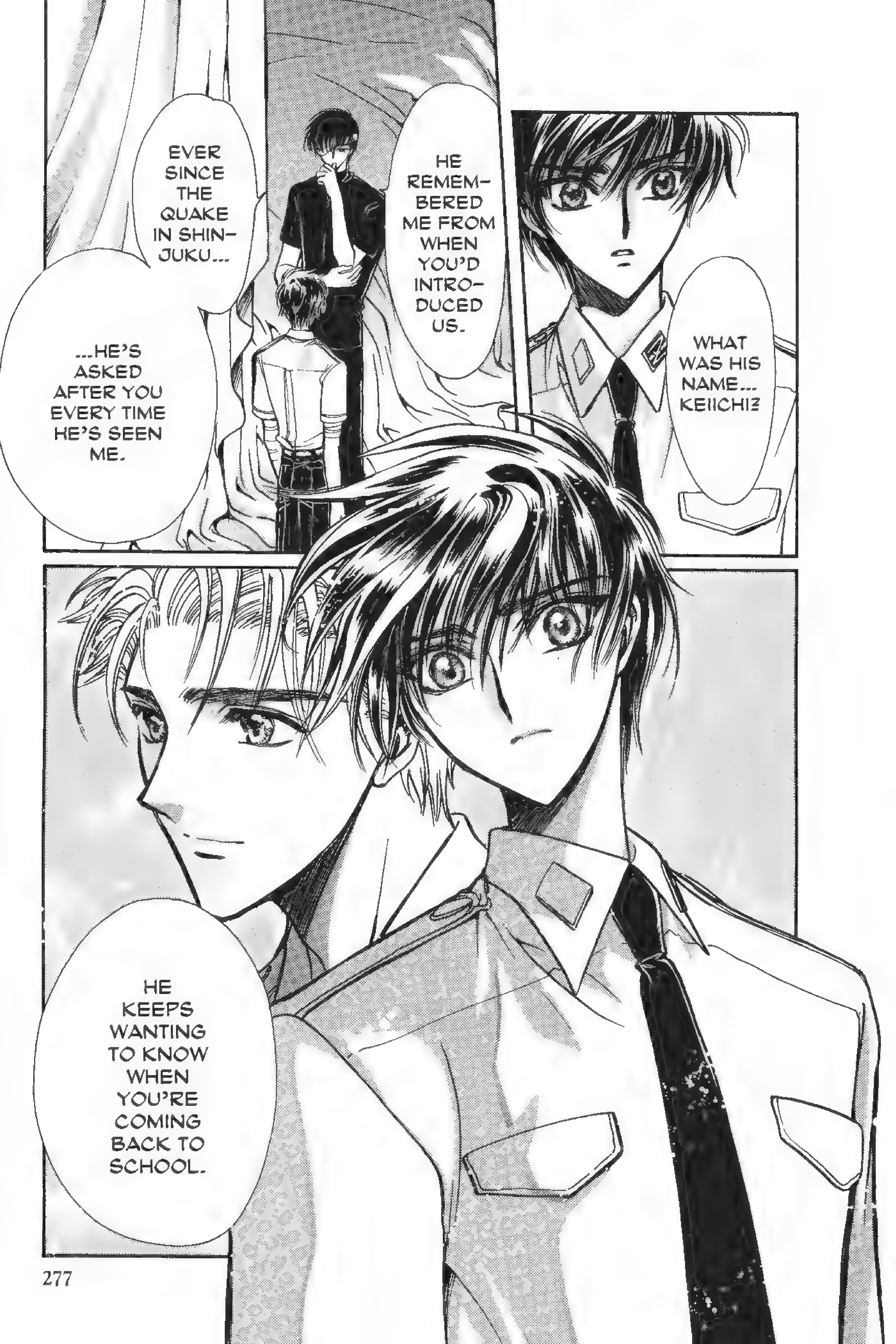

The day is coming soon...
...when you and I...
...shall meet not in dreams, but in the waking world.

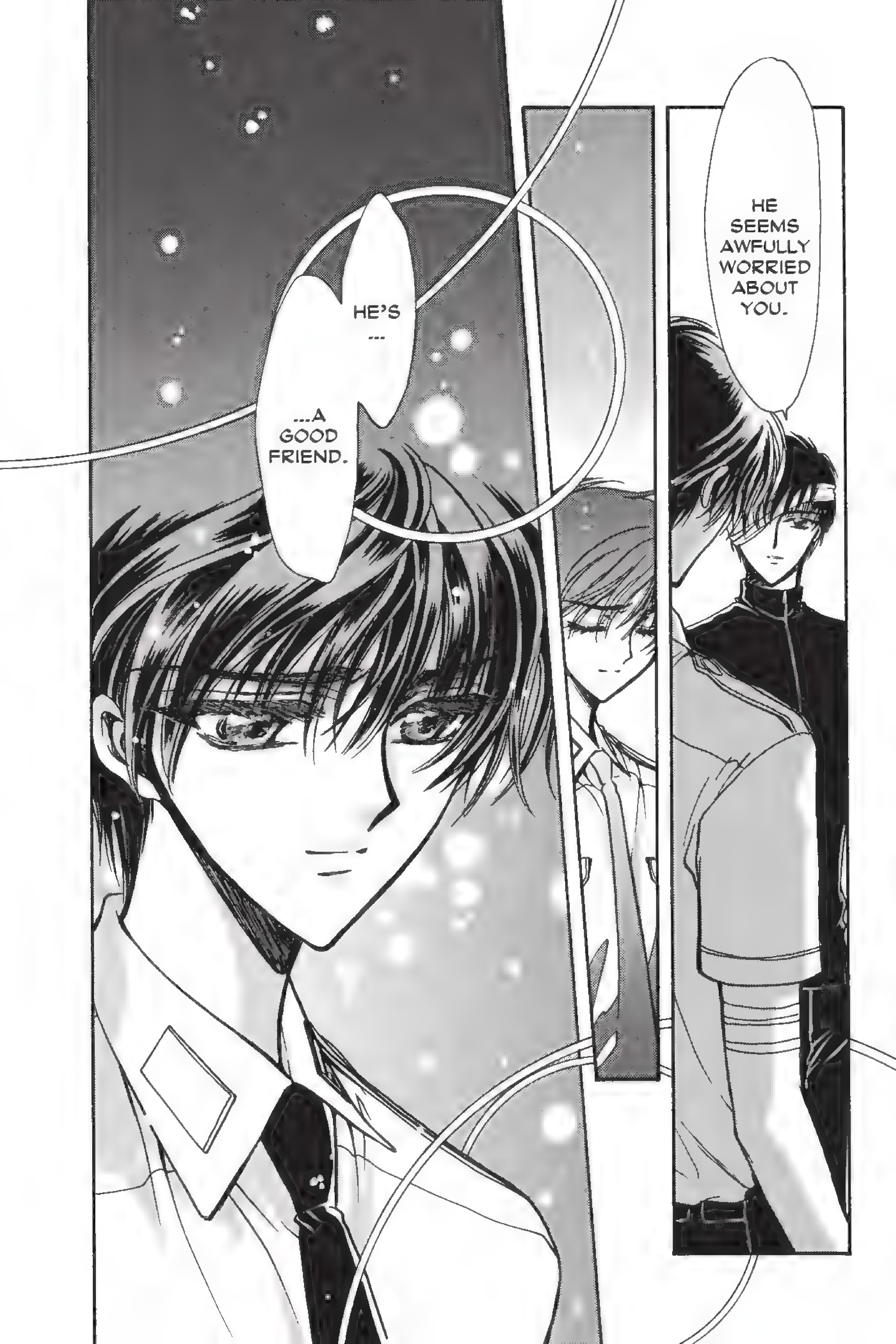

YOU'RE SURE?
I CAN'T KEEP SLEEPING FOREVER.
THROB
Fwp

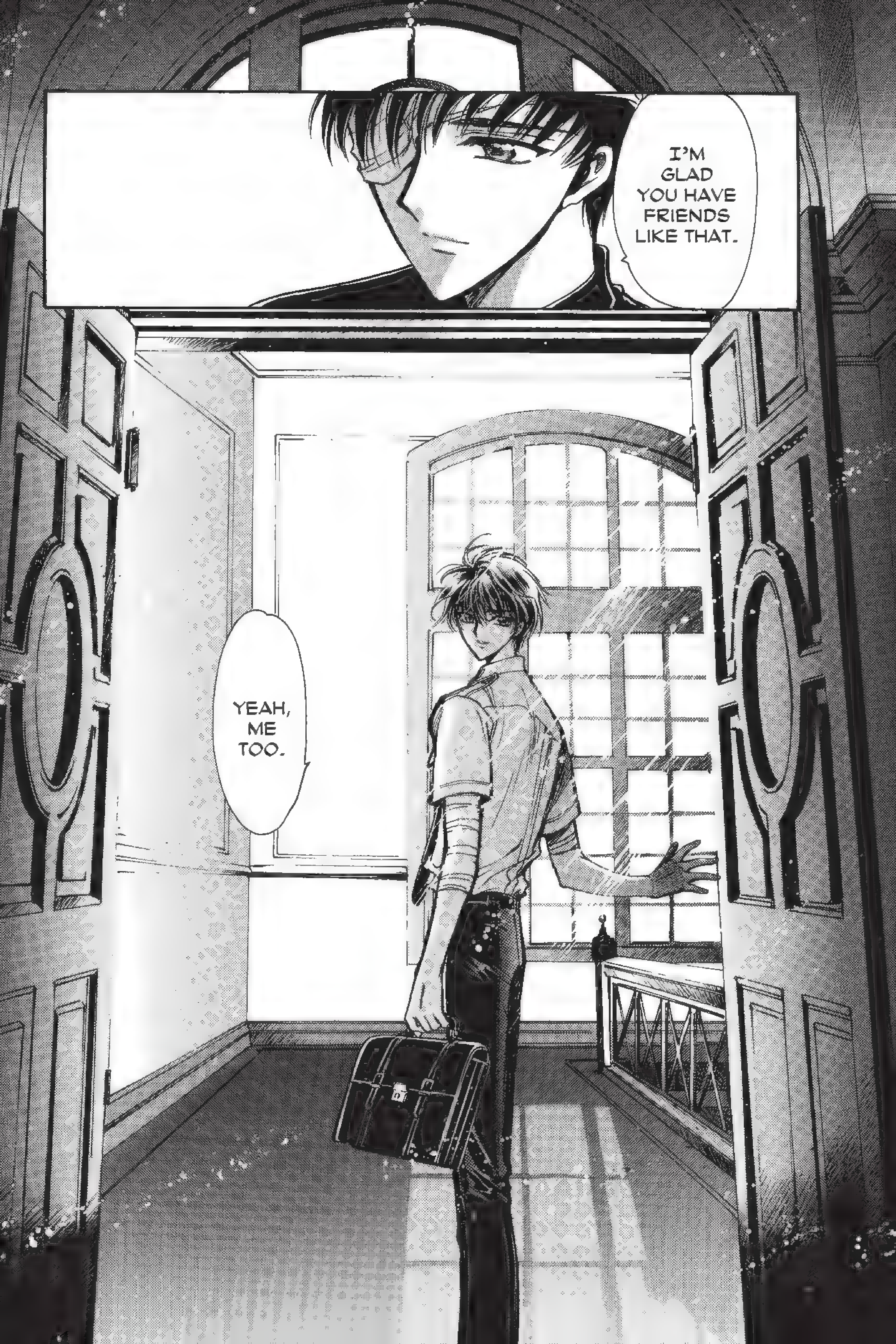

SWIP
THANKS ---

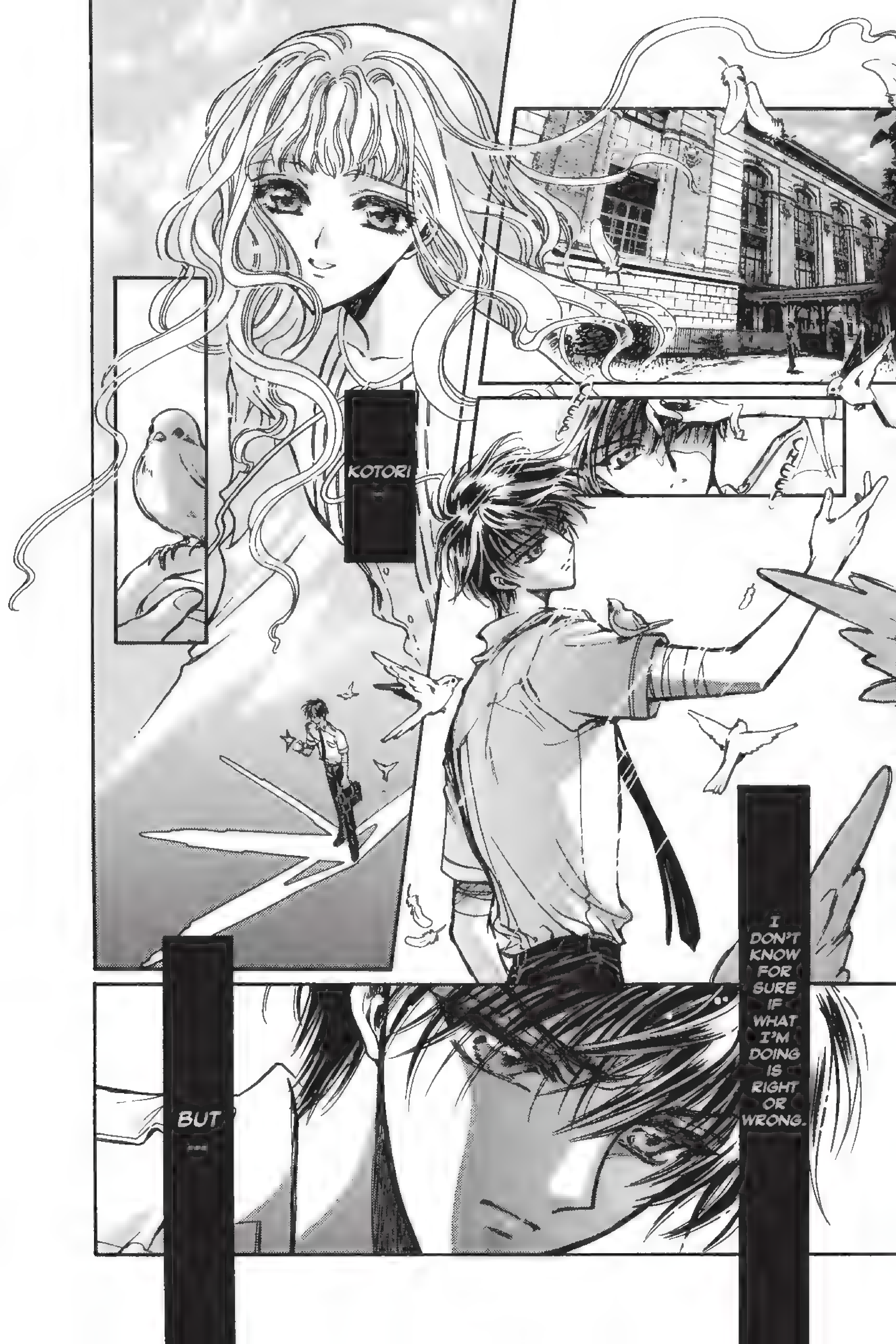


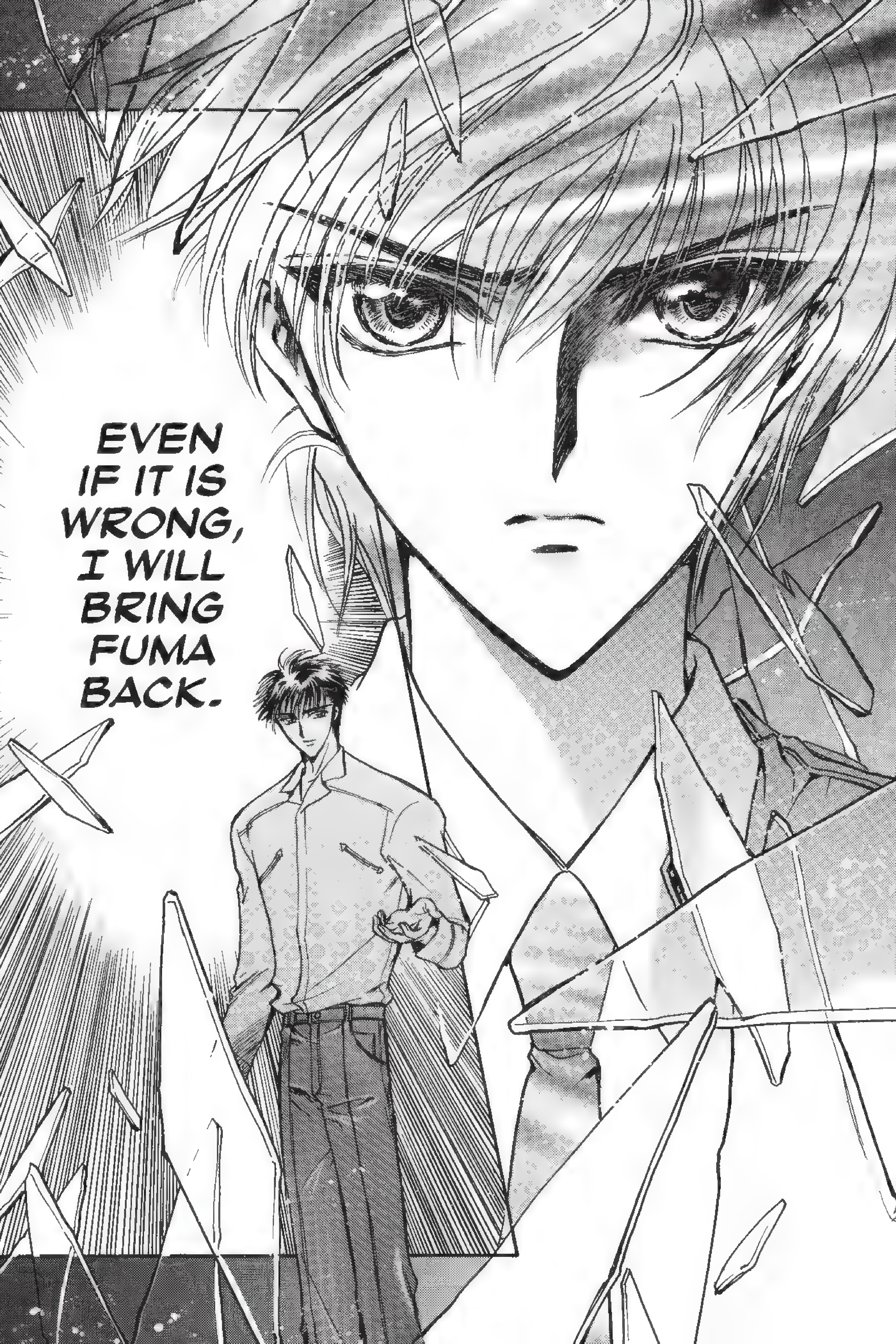

FIRST, I HAVE TO FIND YUZURIHA.
SHF
YES, YOU DO.
SHWP
TUG
HE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
WHO?

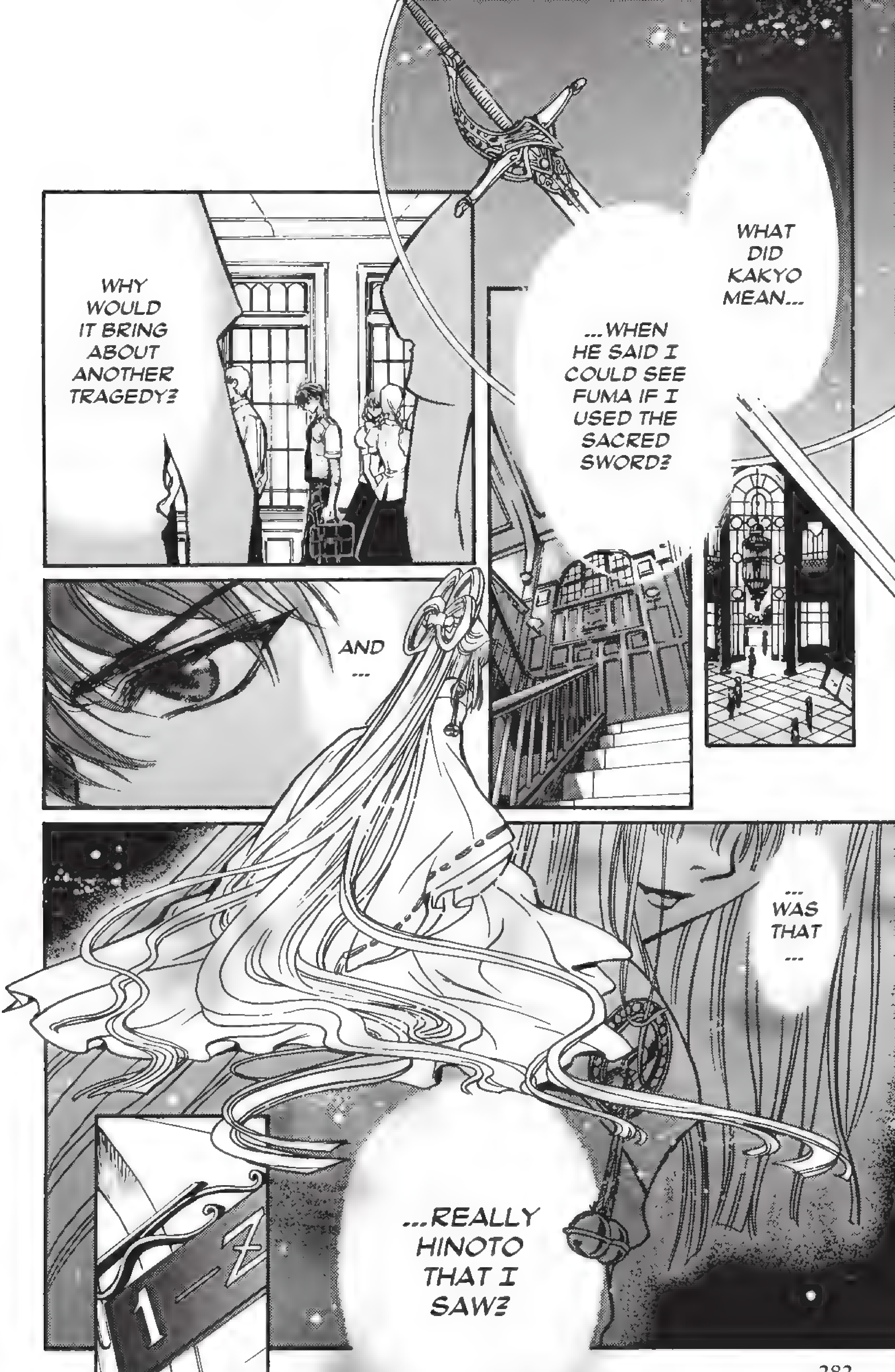

WHAT WAS HIS NAME... KEIICHI?
HE REMEMBERED ME FROM WHEN YOU'D INTRODUCED US.
EVER SINCE THE QUAKE IN SHINJUKU...
...HE'S ASKED AFTER YOU EVERY TIME HE'S SEEN ME.
HE KEEPS WANTING TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE COMING BACK TO SCHOOL.

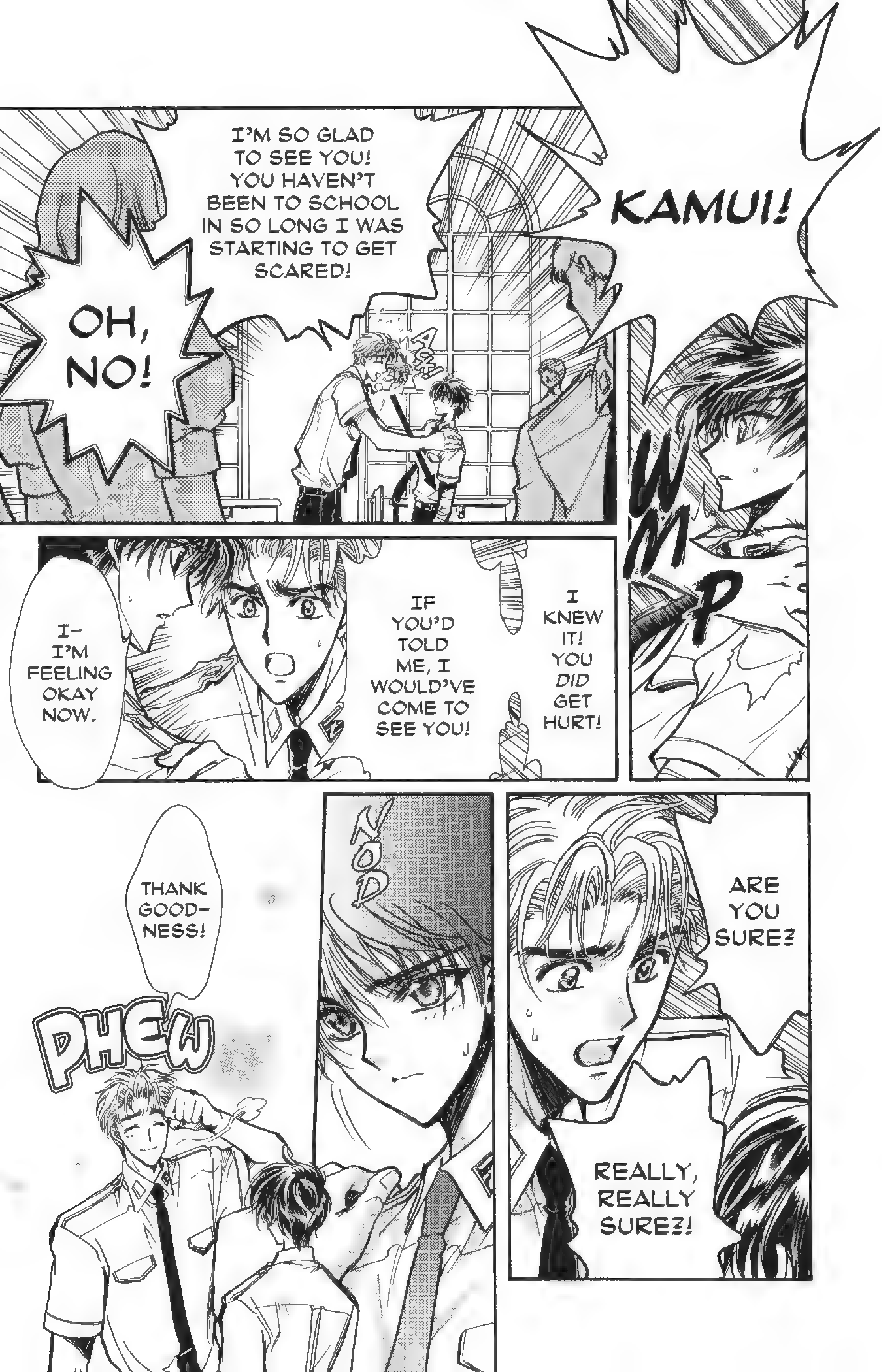

HE SEEMS AWFULLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
HE'S ...
...A GOOD FRIEND.

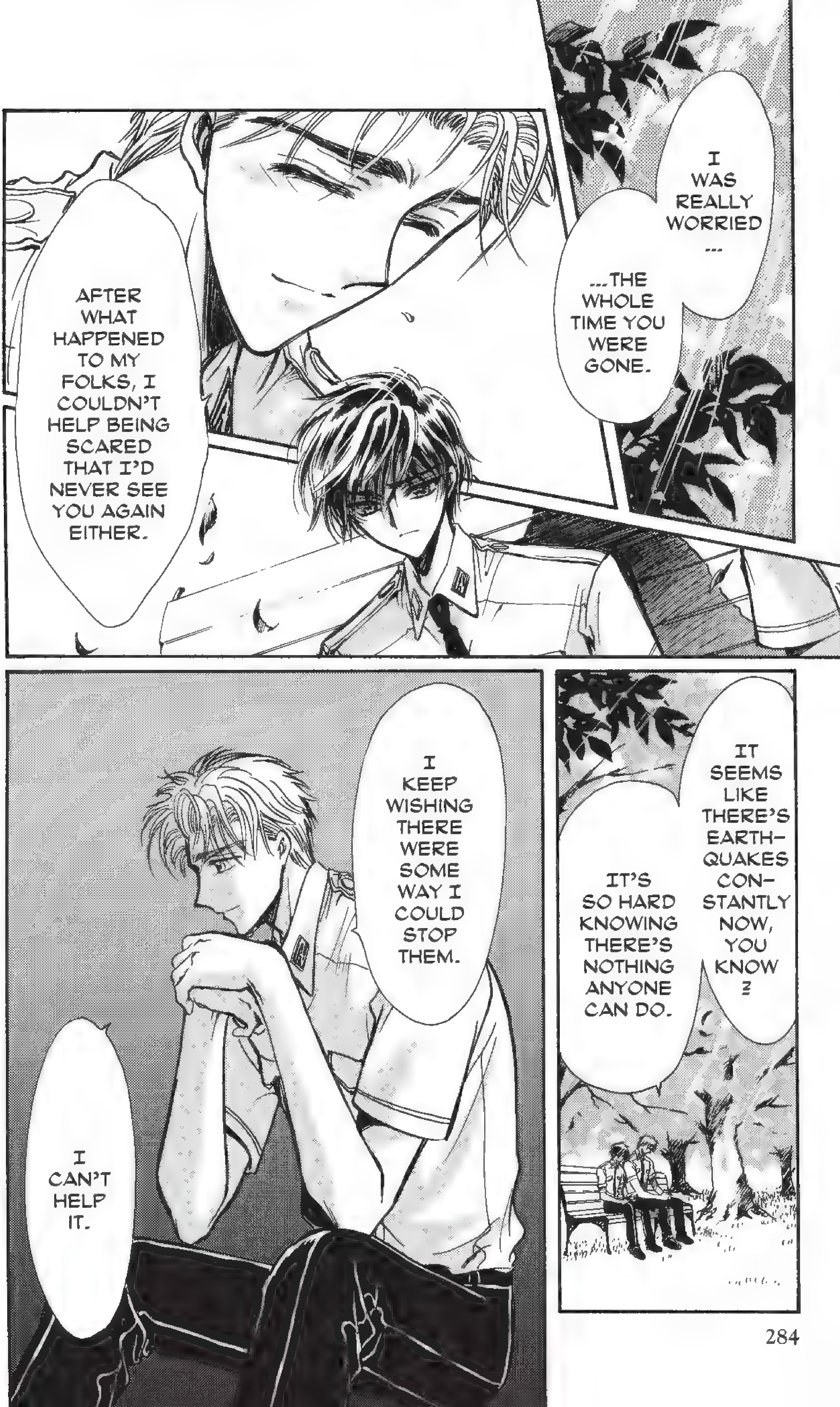

I'M GLAD YOU HAVE FRIENDS LIKE THAT.
YEAH, ME TOO.

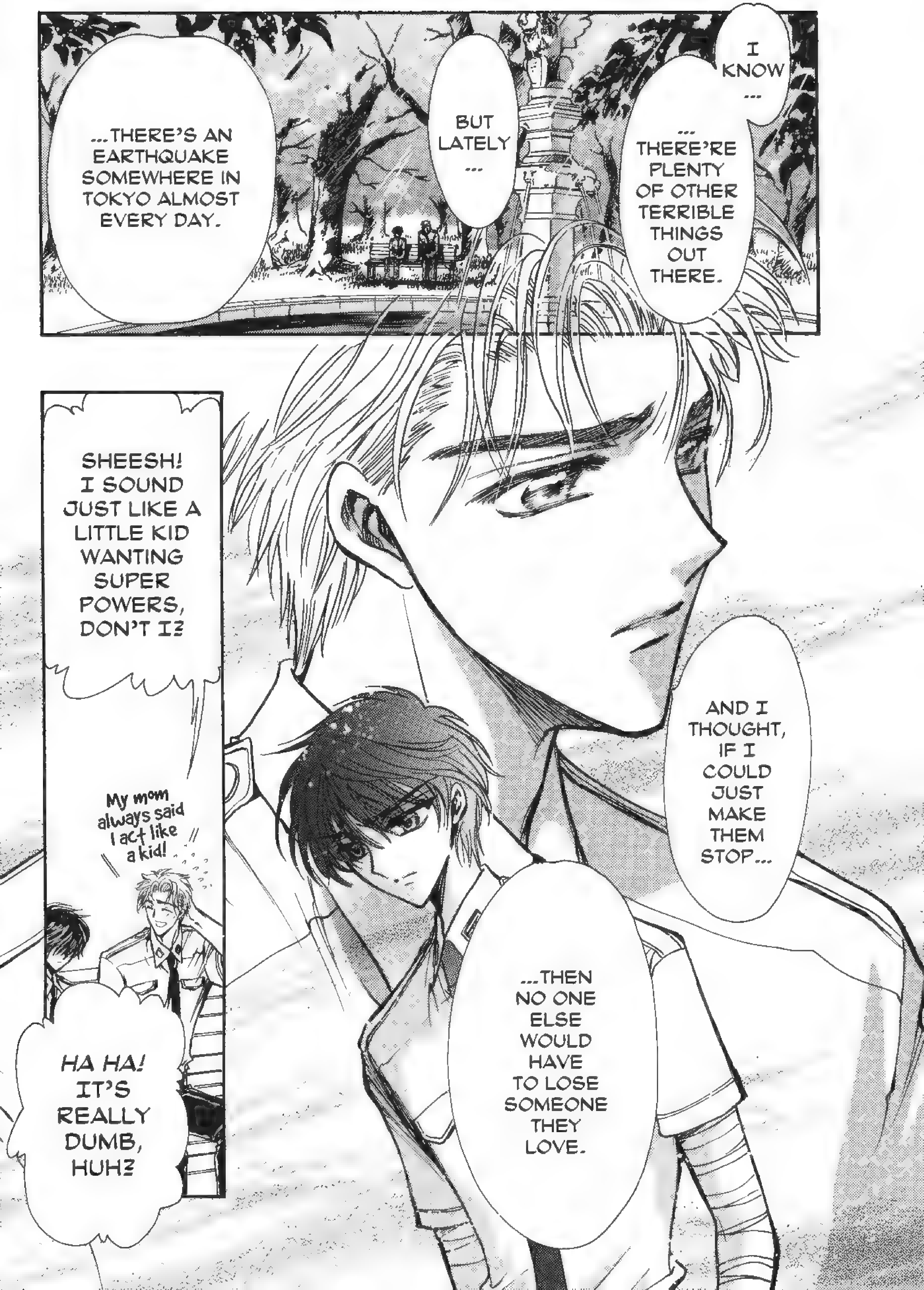

CHEEP
KOTORI
I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE IF WHAT I'M DOING IS RIGHT OR WRONG.
BUT

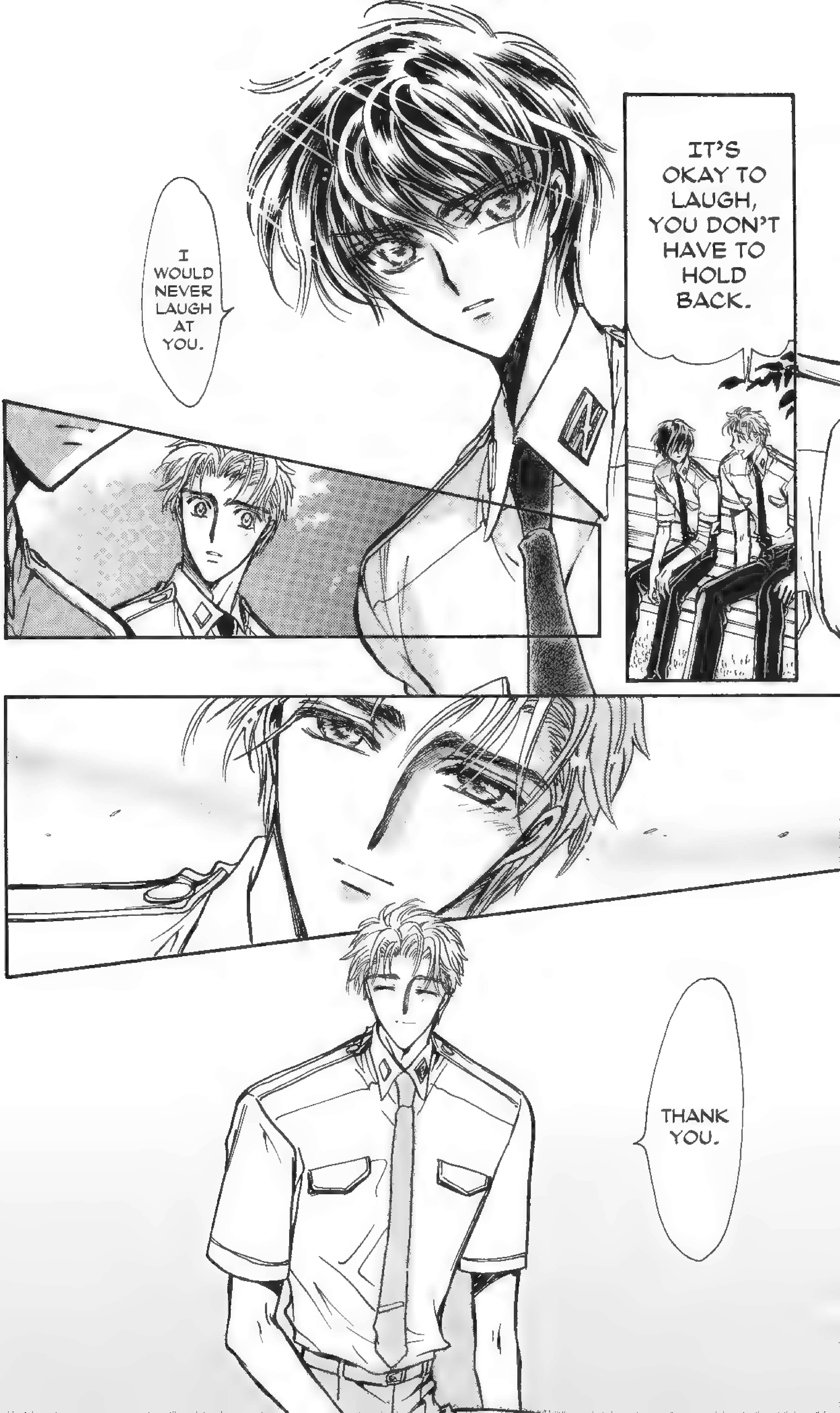

EVEN IF IT IS WRONG, I WILL BRING FUMA BACK.

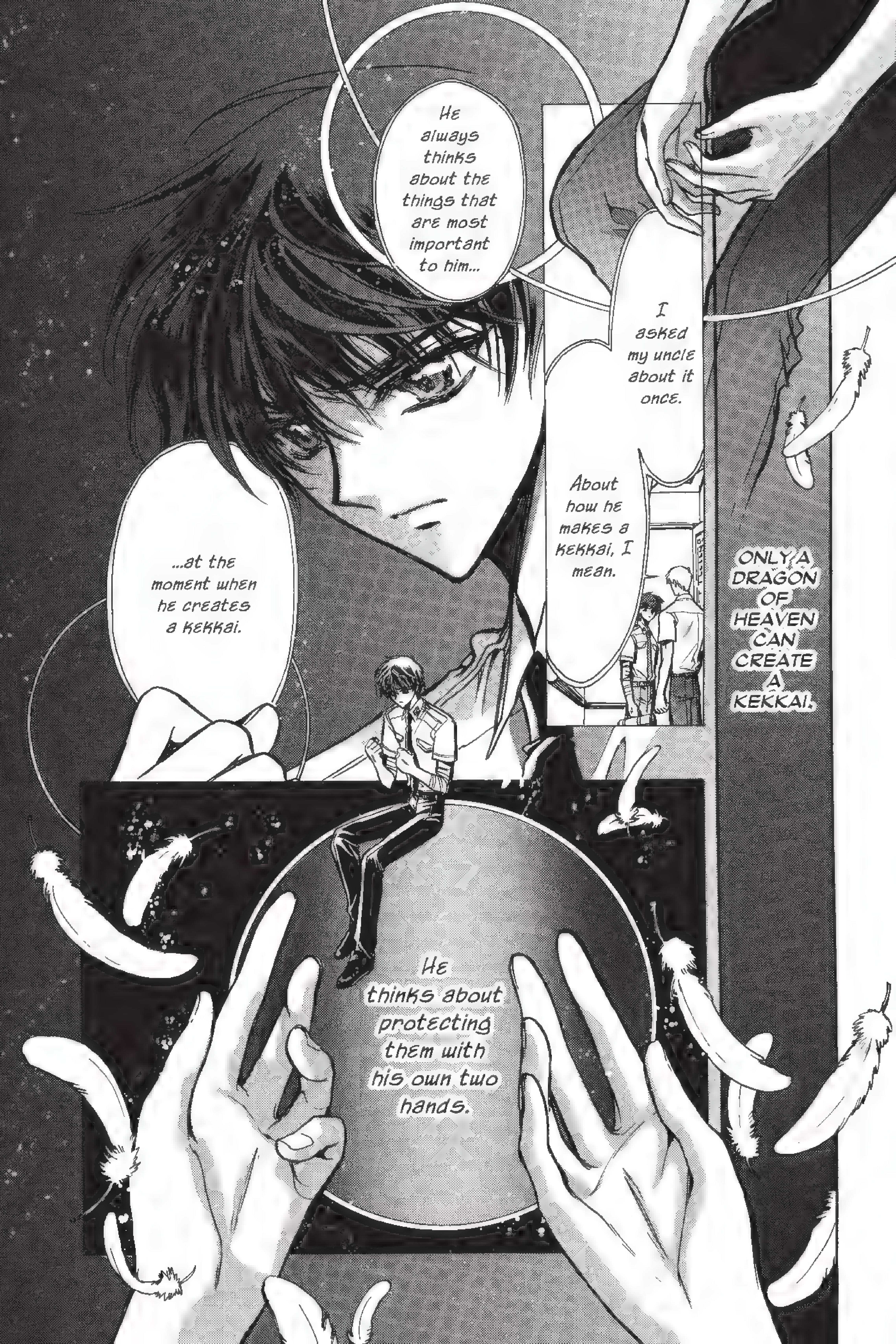

WHAT DID KAKYO MEAN...
...WHEN HE SAID I COULD SEE FUMA IF I USED THE SACRED SWORD?
WHY WOULD IT BRING ABOUT ANOTHER TRAGEDY?
AND ...
... WAS THAT ...
...REALLY HINOTO THAT I SAW?
1-Z

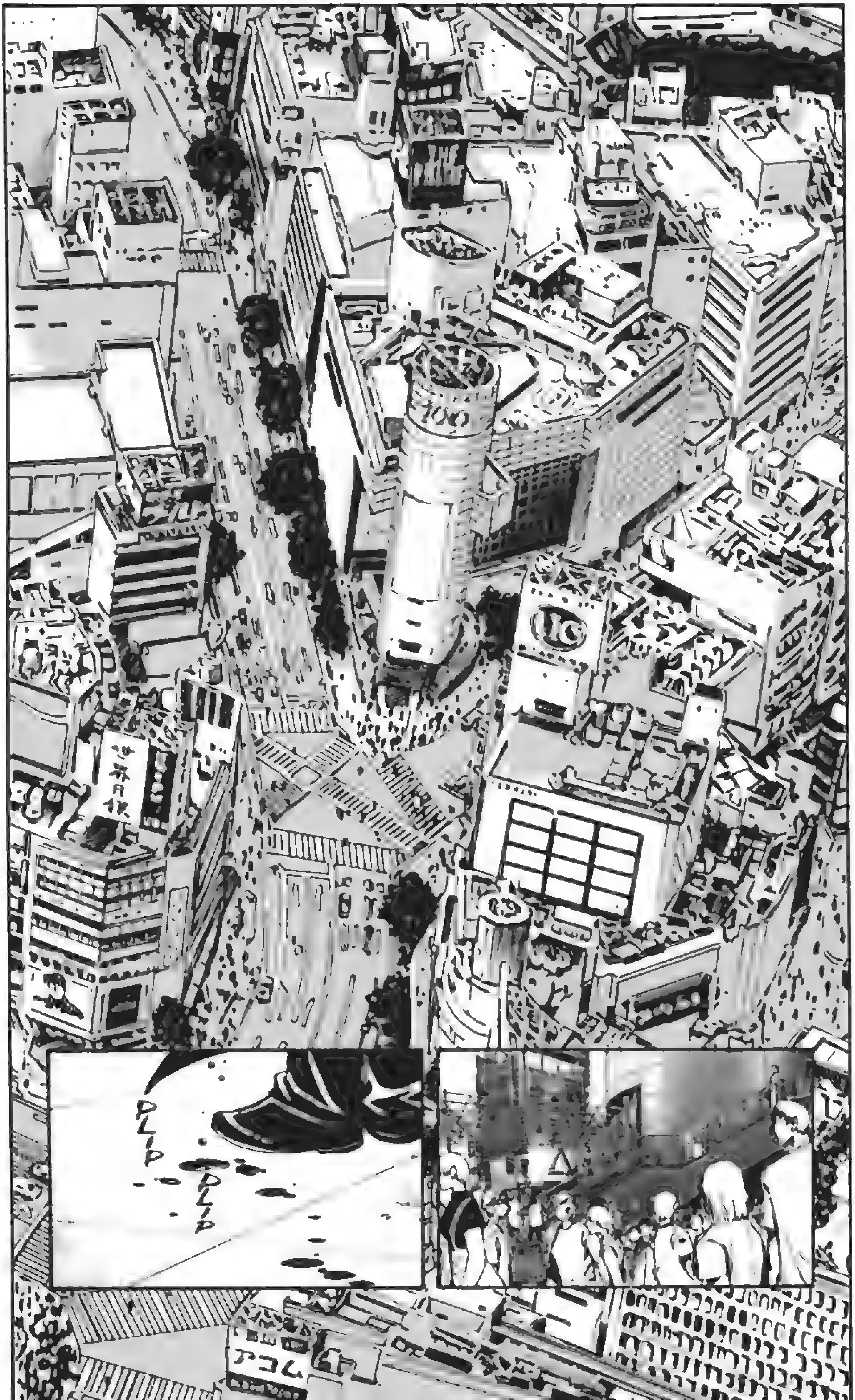

KAMUI!
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL IN SO LONG I WAS STARTING TO GET SCARED!
ACK!
OH, NO!
WMP
I KNEW IT! YOU *DID* GET HURT!
IF YOU'D TOLD ME, I WOULD'VE COME TO SEE YOU!
I- I'M FEELING OKAY NOW.
ARE YOU SURE?
REALLY, REALLY SURE?!
NOD
THANK GOODNESS!
PHEW

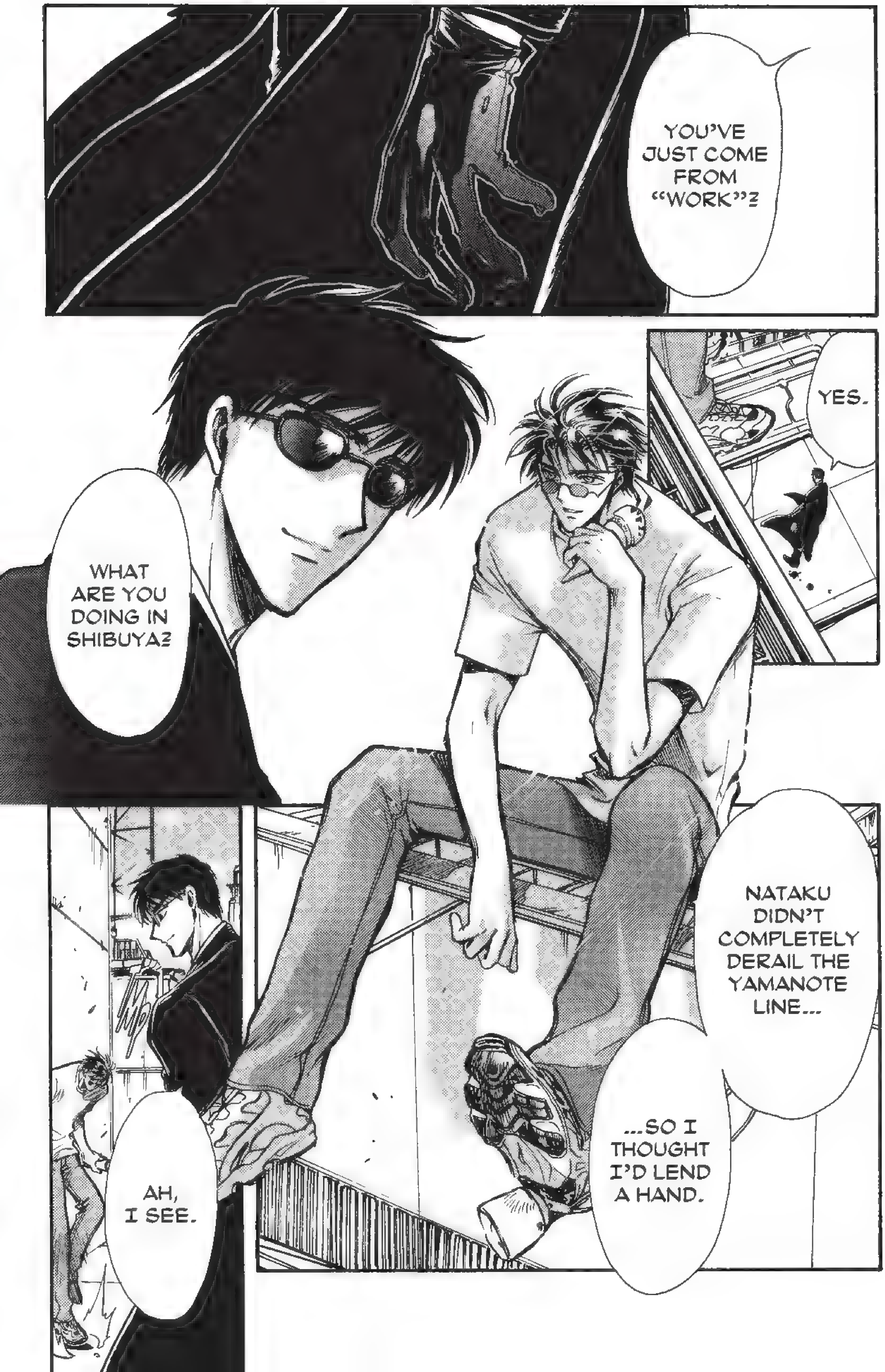

I WAS REALLY WORRIED...
...THE WHOLE TIME YOU WERE GONE.
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FOLKS, I COULDN'T HELP BEING SCARED THAT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN EITHER.
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S EARTHQUAKES CONSTANTLY NOW, YOU KNOW?
IT'S SO HARD KNOWING THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO.
I KEEP WISHING THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD STOP THEM.
I CAN'T HELP IT.

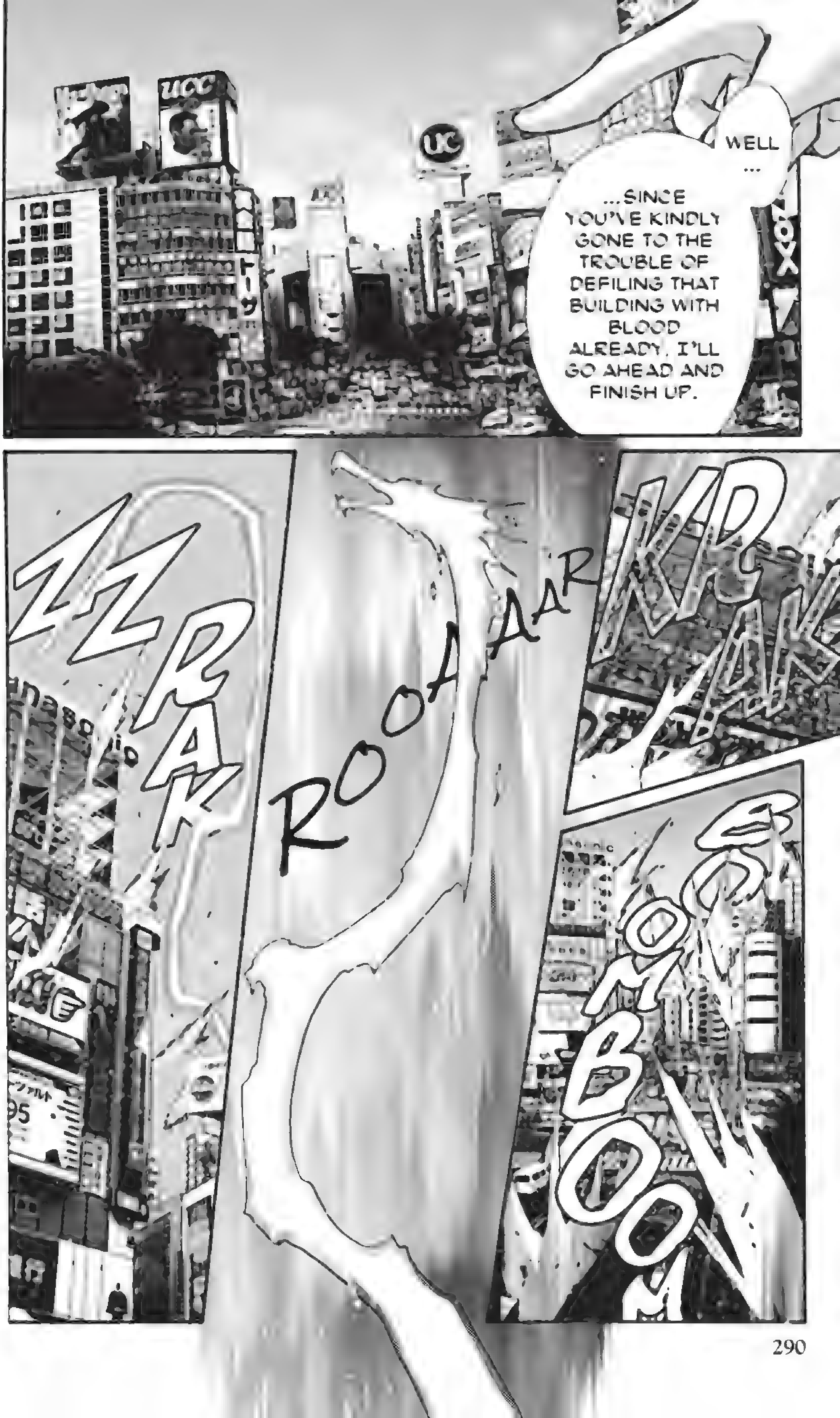

I KNOW...
...THERE'RE PLENTY OF OTHER TERRIBLE THINGS OUT THERE.
BUT LATELY...
...THERE'S AN EARTHQUAKE SOMEWHERE IN TOKYO ALMOST EVERY DAY.
AND I THOUGHT, IF I COULD JUST MAKE THEM STOP...
...THEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD HAVE TO LOSE SOMEONE THEY LOVE.
SHEESH! I SOUND JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID WANTING SUPER POWERS, DON'T I?
My mom always said I act like a kid!
HA HA! IT'S REALLY DUMB, HUH?


IT'S OKAY TO LAUGH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.
I WOULD NEVER LAUGH AT YOU.
THANK YOU.

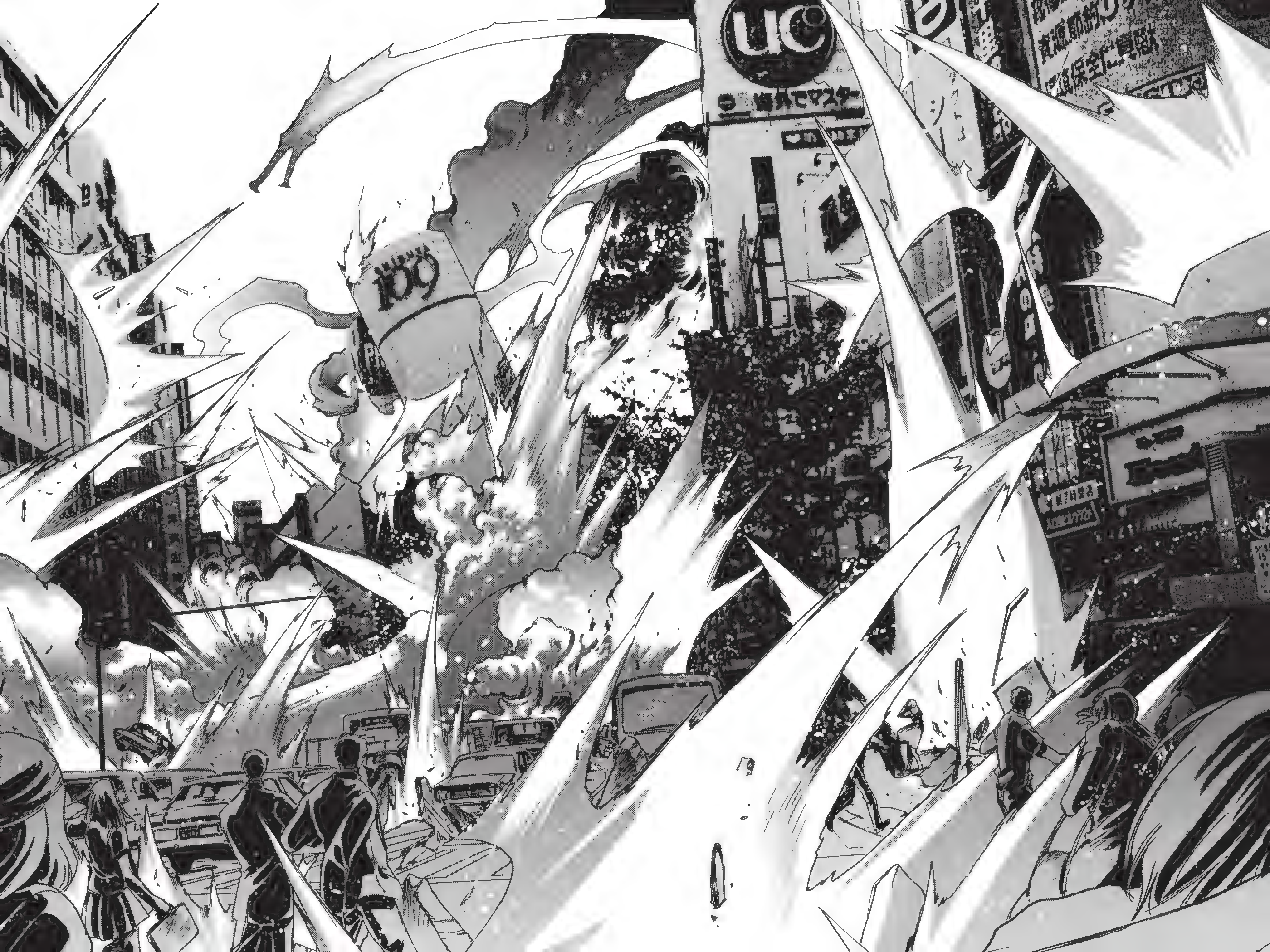

I asked my uncle about it once.
About how he makes a kekkai, I mean.
He always thinks about the things that are most important to him...
...at the moment when he creates a kekkai.
He thinks about protecting them with his own two hands.
ONLY A DRAGON OF HEAVEN CAN CREATE A KEKKAI.

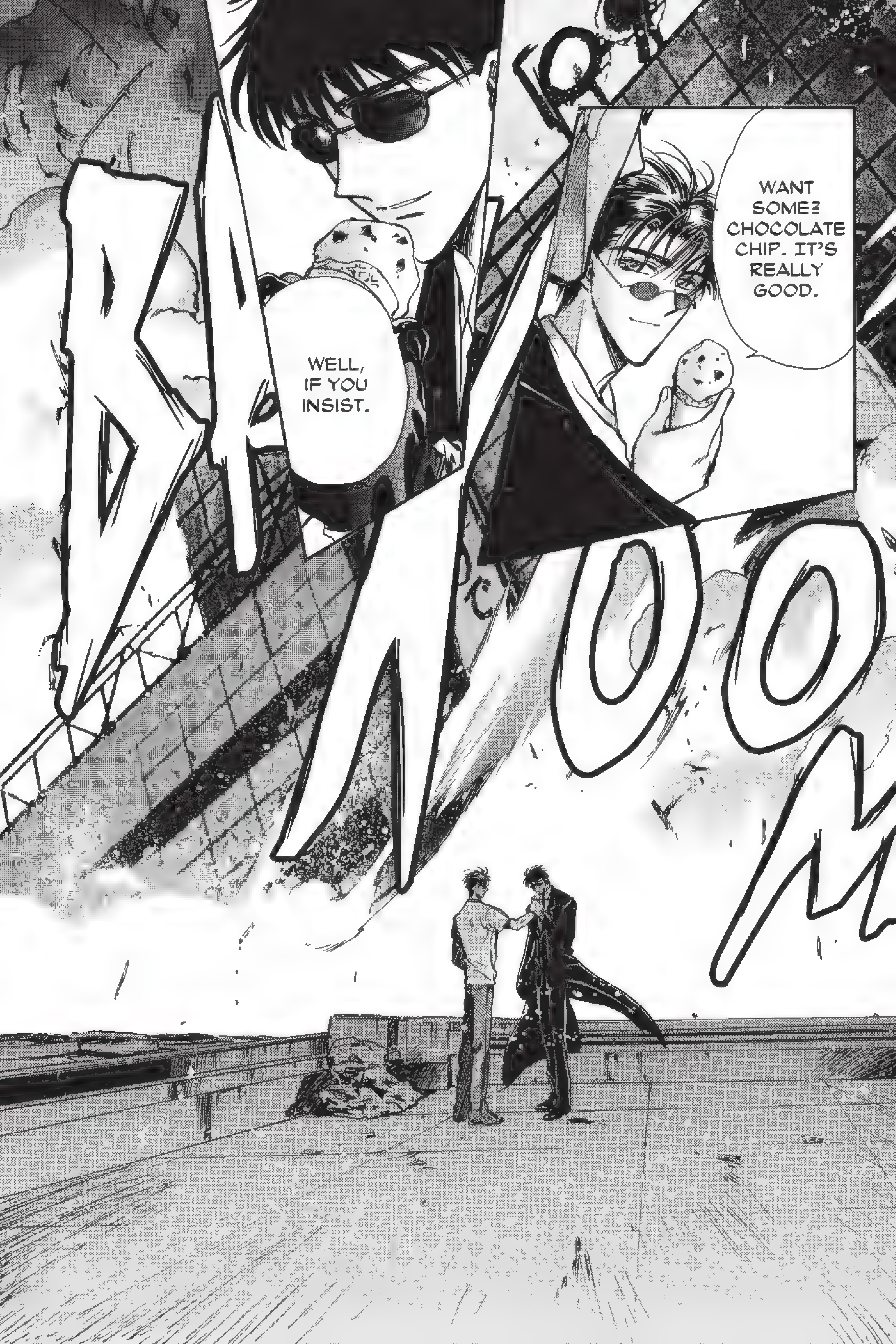

100
DLIP
DLIP
アコム

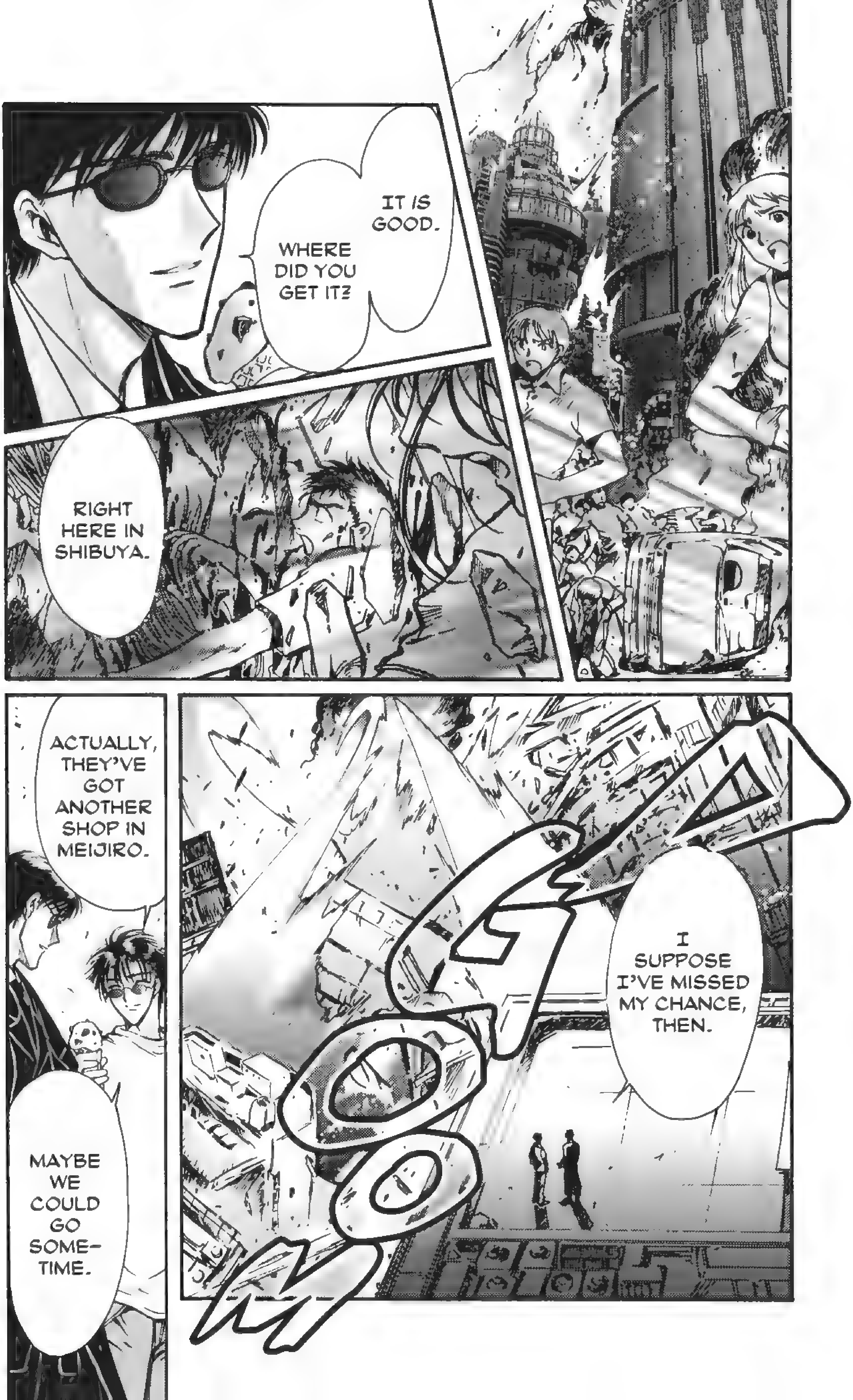

YOU'VE JUST COME FROM "WORK"?
YES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN SHIBUYA?
NATAKU DIDN'T COMPLETELY DERAIL THE YAMANOTE LINE...
...SO I THOUGHT I'D LEND A HAND.
AH, I SEE.

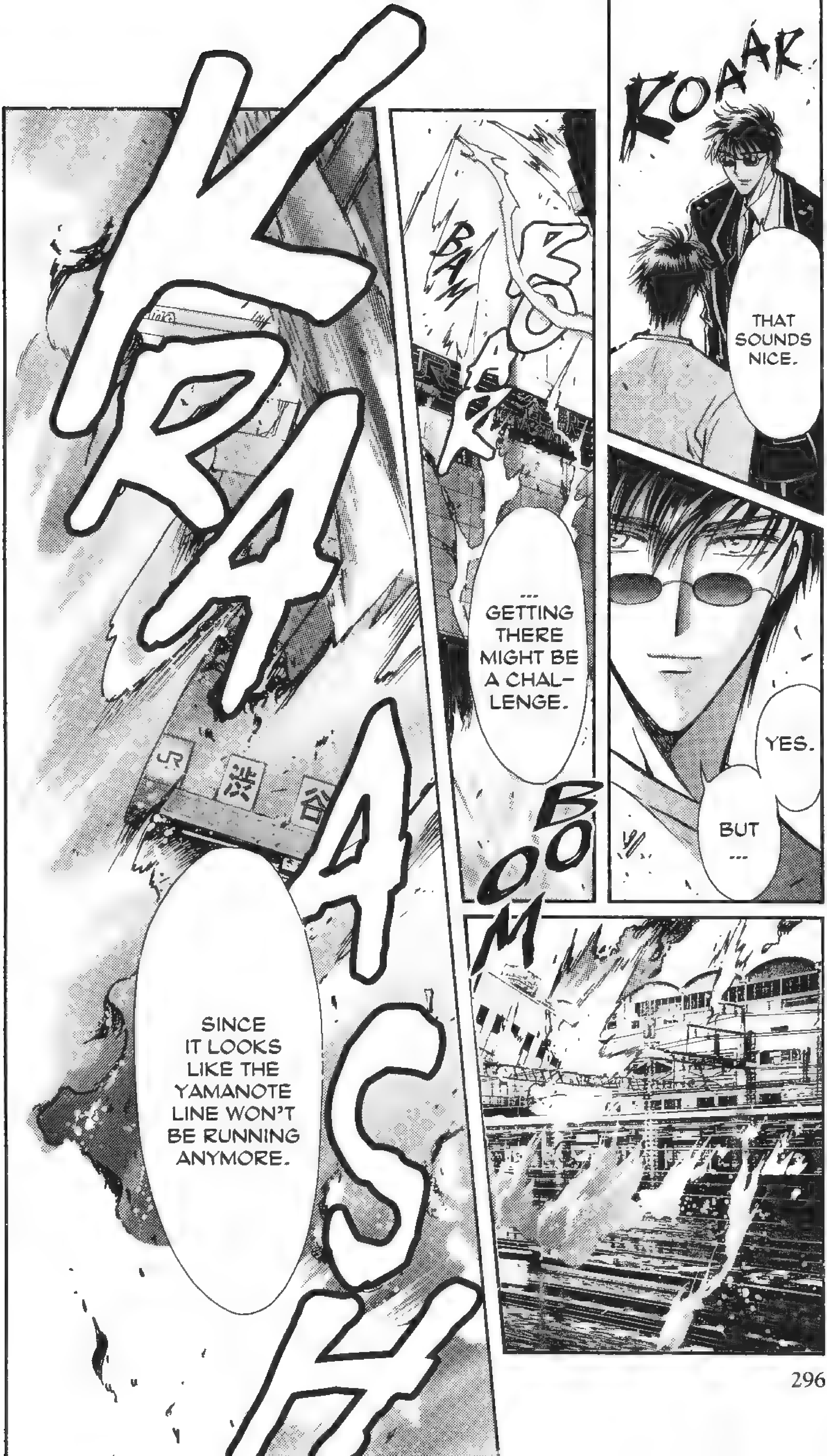

WELL ...
...SINCE YOU'VE KINDLY GONE TO THE TROUBLE OF DEFILING THAT BUILDING WITH BLOOD ALREADY, I'LL GO AHEAD AND FINISH UP.
KRAKAK
ROOOAAAR
ZZRAK
FOMBOOOM

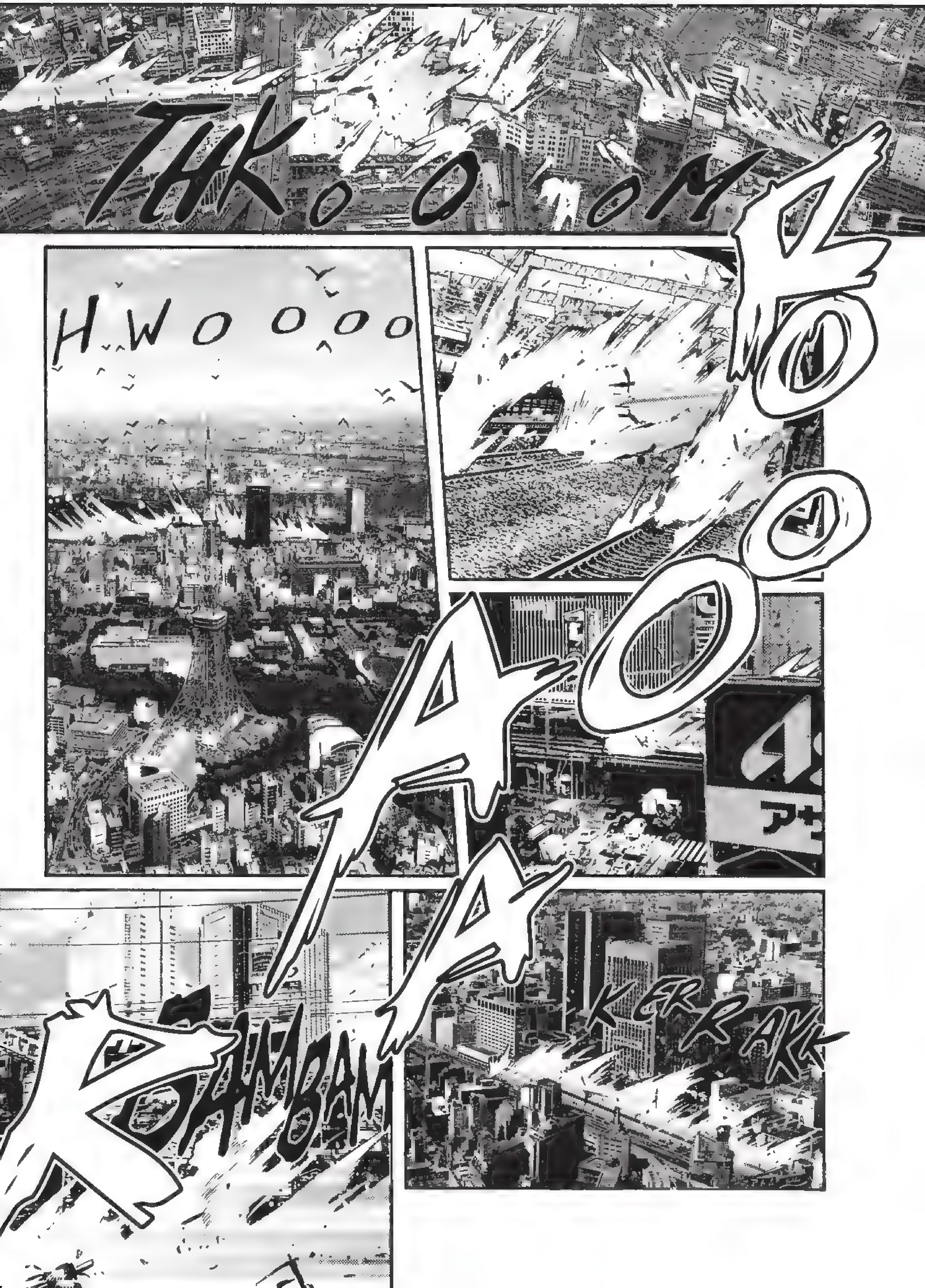
KRKoooOOM
109

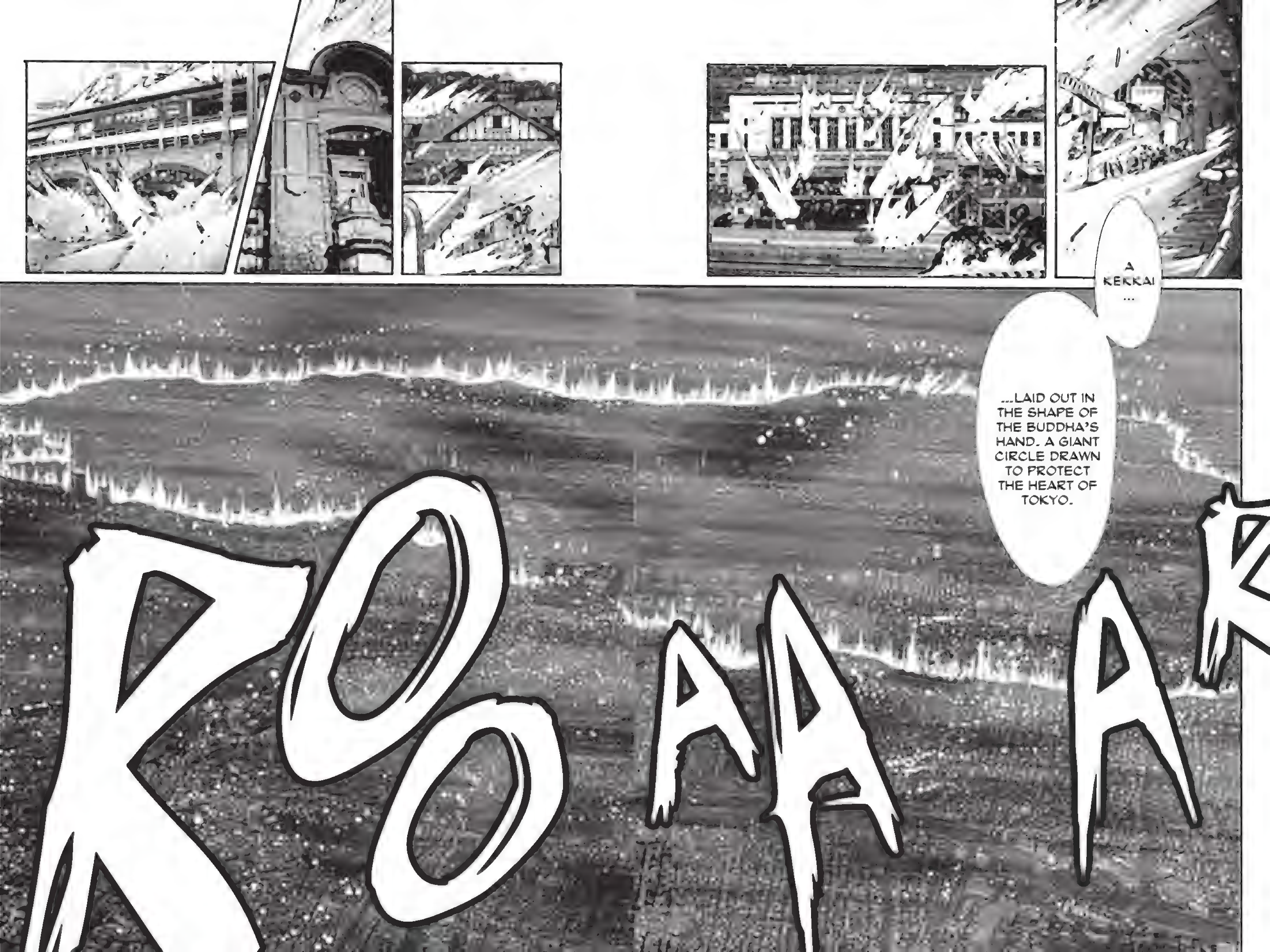

UC
資源節約
資源保全に貢献
109

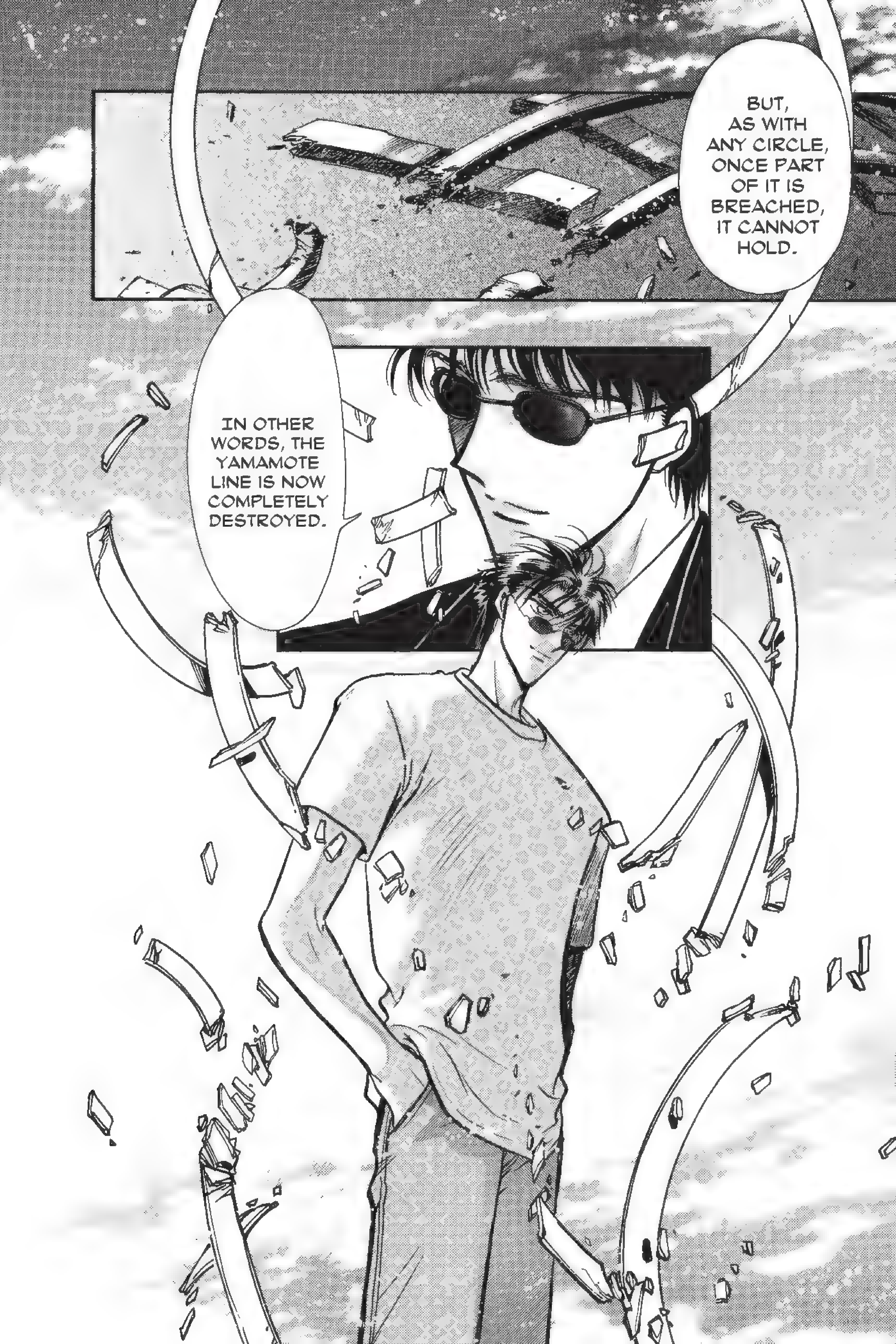

WANT SOME? CHOCOLATE CHIP. IT'S REALLY GOOD.
WELL, IF YOU INSIST.
BA-WOOM

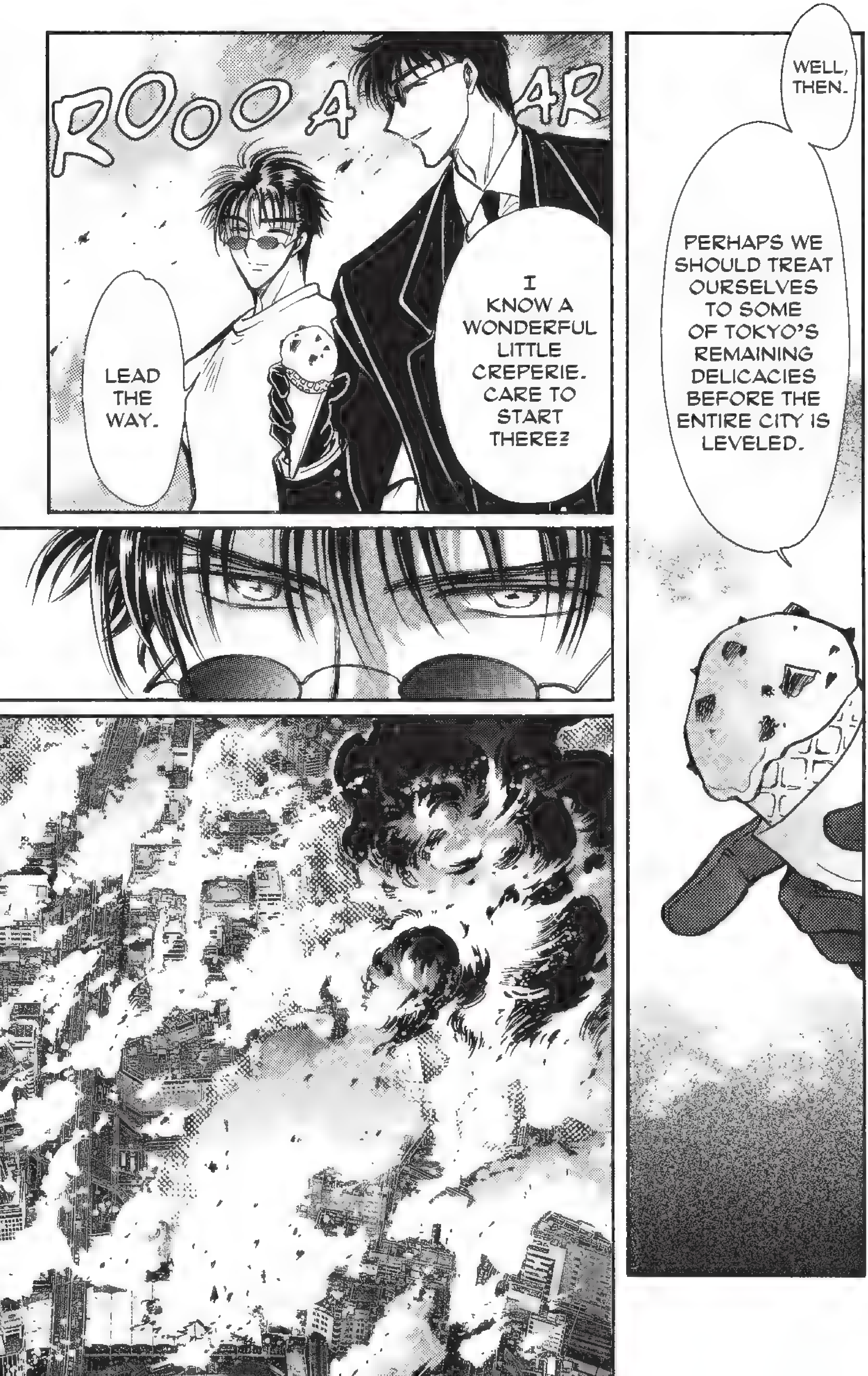

IT IS GOOD.
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
RIGHT HERE IN SHIBUYA.
I SUPPOSE I'VE MISSED MY CHANCE, THEN.
ACTUALLY, THEY'VE GOT ANOTHER SHOP IN MEIJIRO.
MAYBE WE COULD GO SOMETIME.

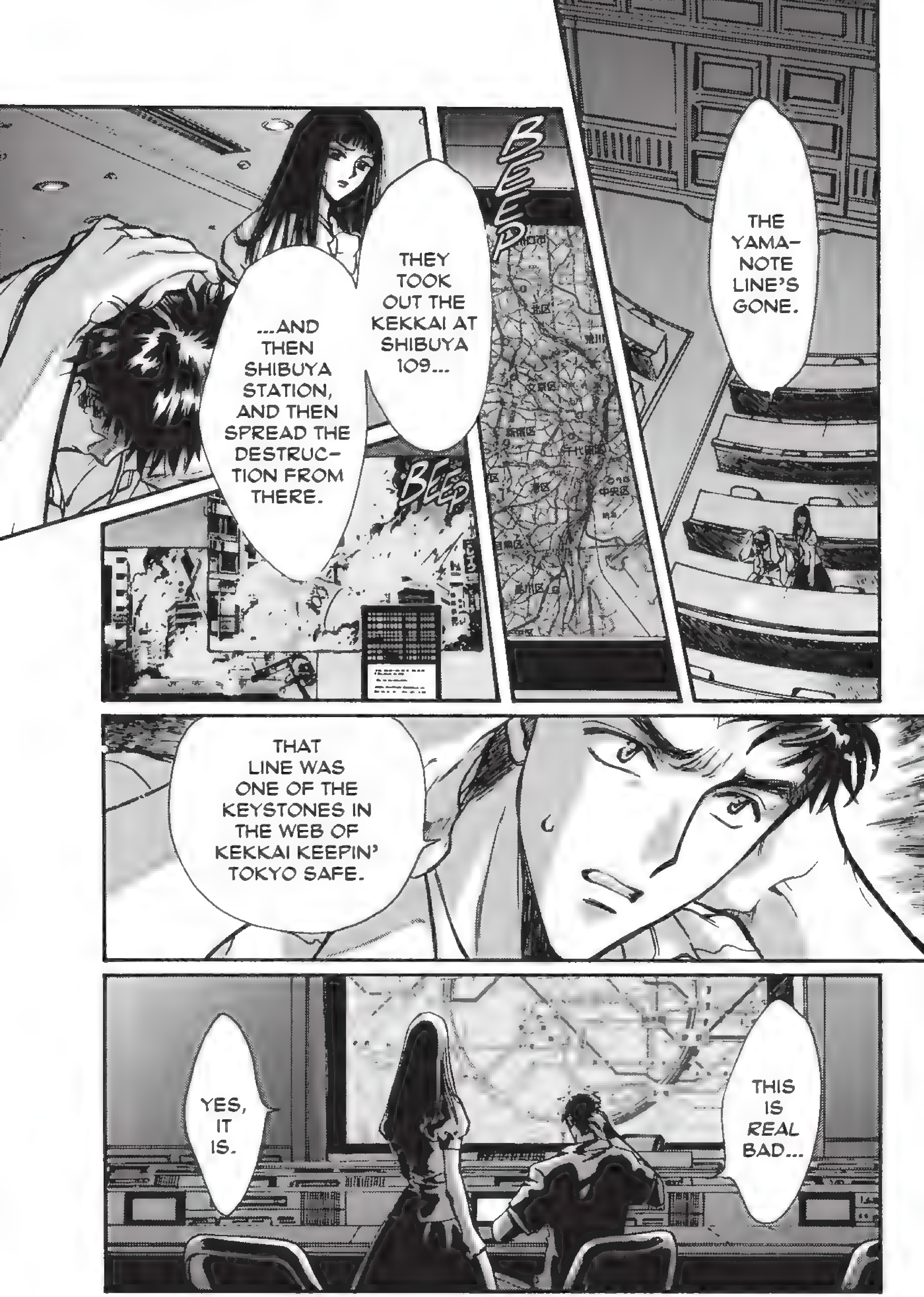

ROAAR
THAT SOUNDS NICE.
YES.
BUT ...
BAM
... GETTING THERE MIGHT BE A CHALLENGE.
BOOOM
KRAAASH
SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE THE YAMANOTE LINE WON'T BE RUNNING ANYMORE.
JR 渋谷

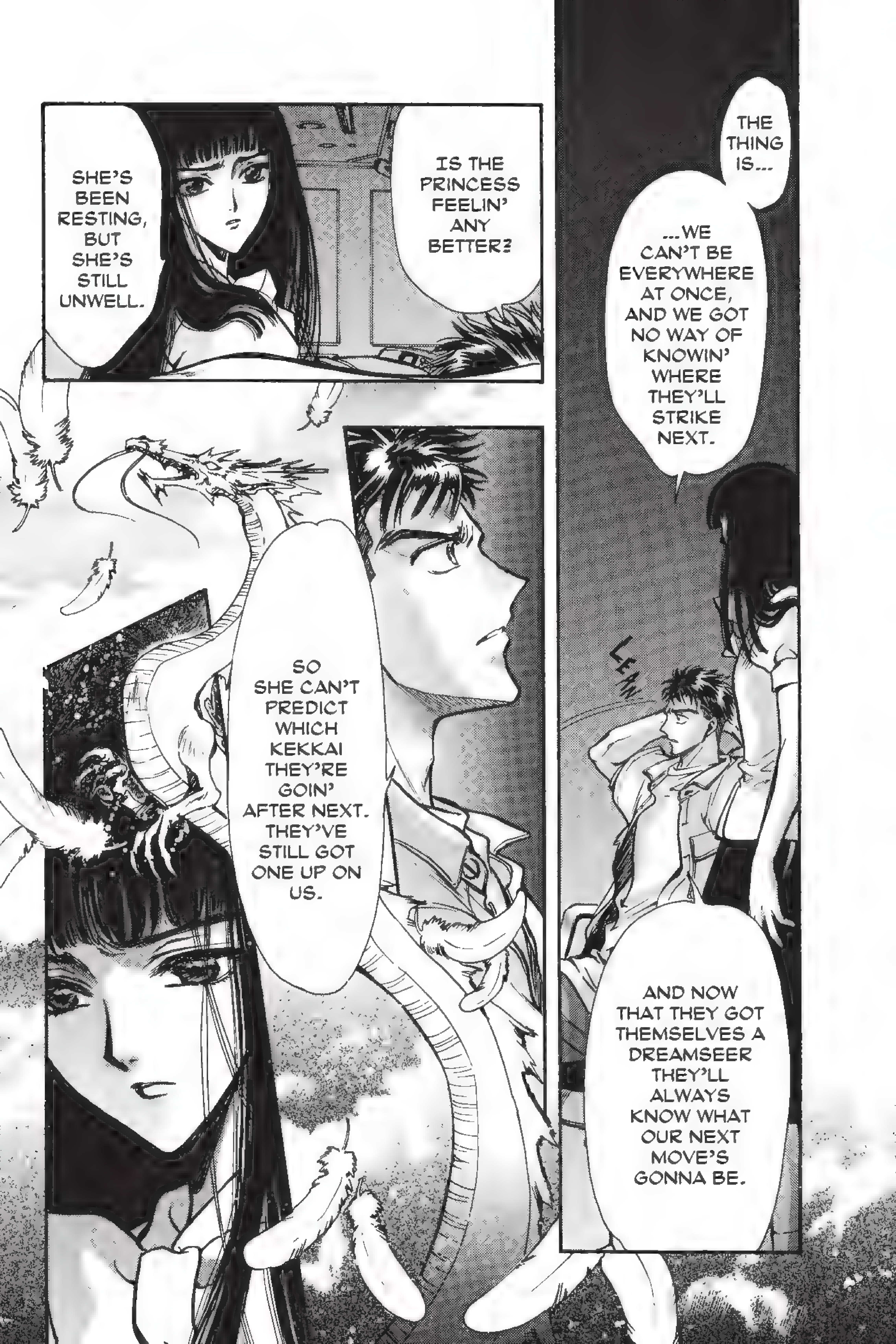

THKOOOOM
KOOOAAA
HWOOOO
アサ
KERRAKK
KBAMBAM

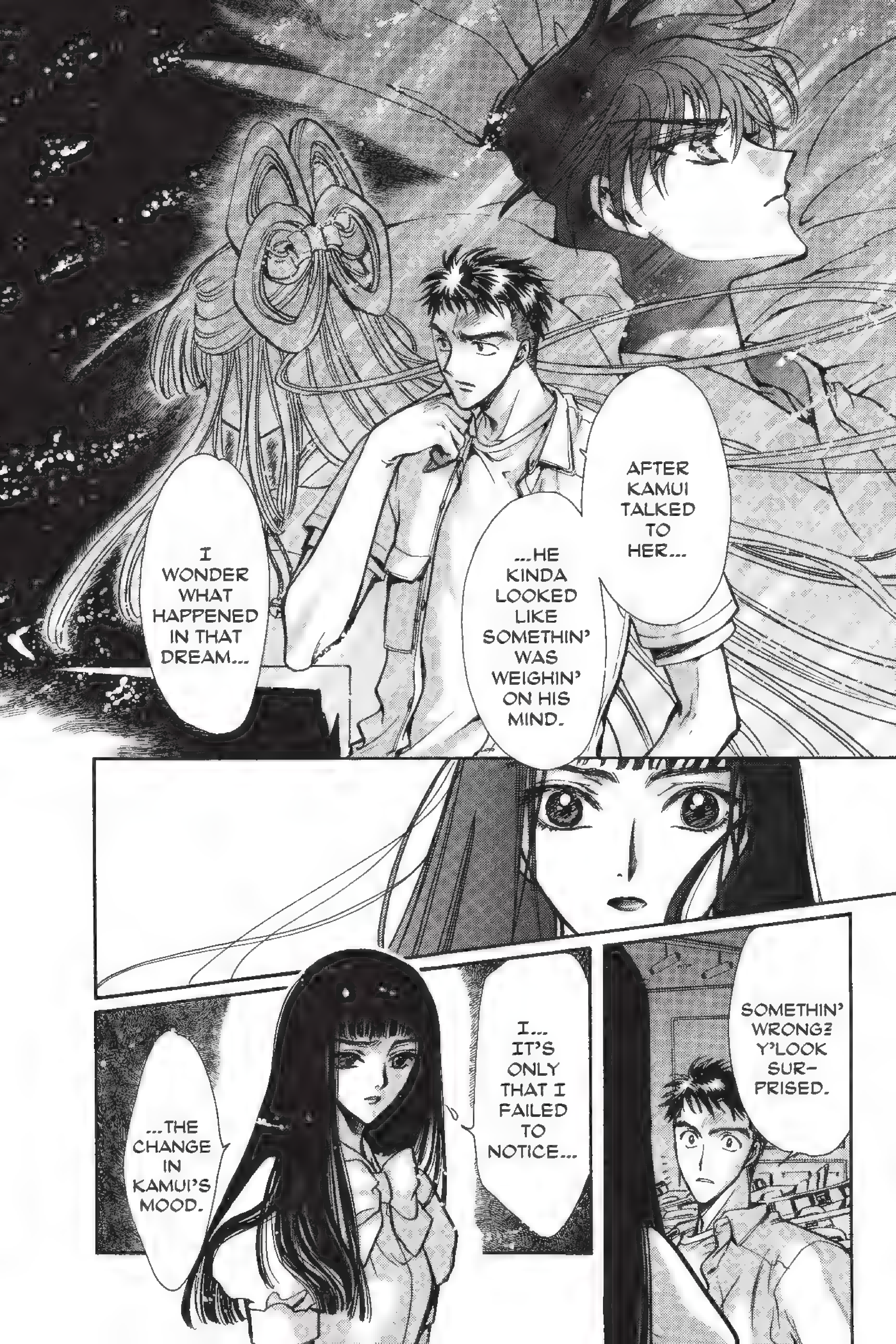

A KEKKAI ...
...LAID OUT IN THE SHAPE OF THE BUDDHA'S HAND. A GIANT CIRCLE DRAWN TO PROTECT THE HEART OF TOKYO.
ROOAAAR

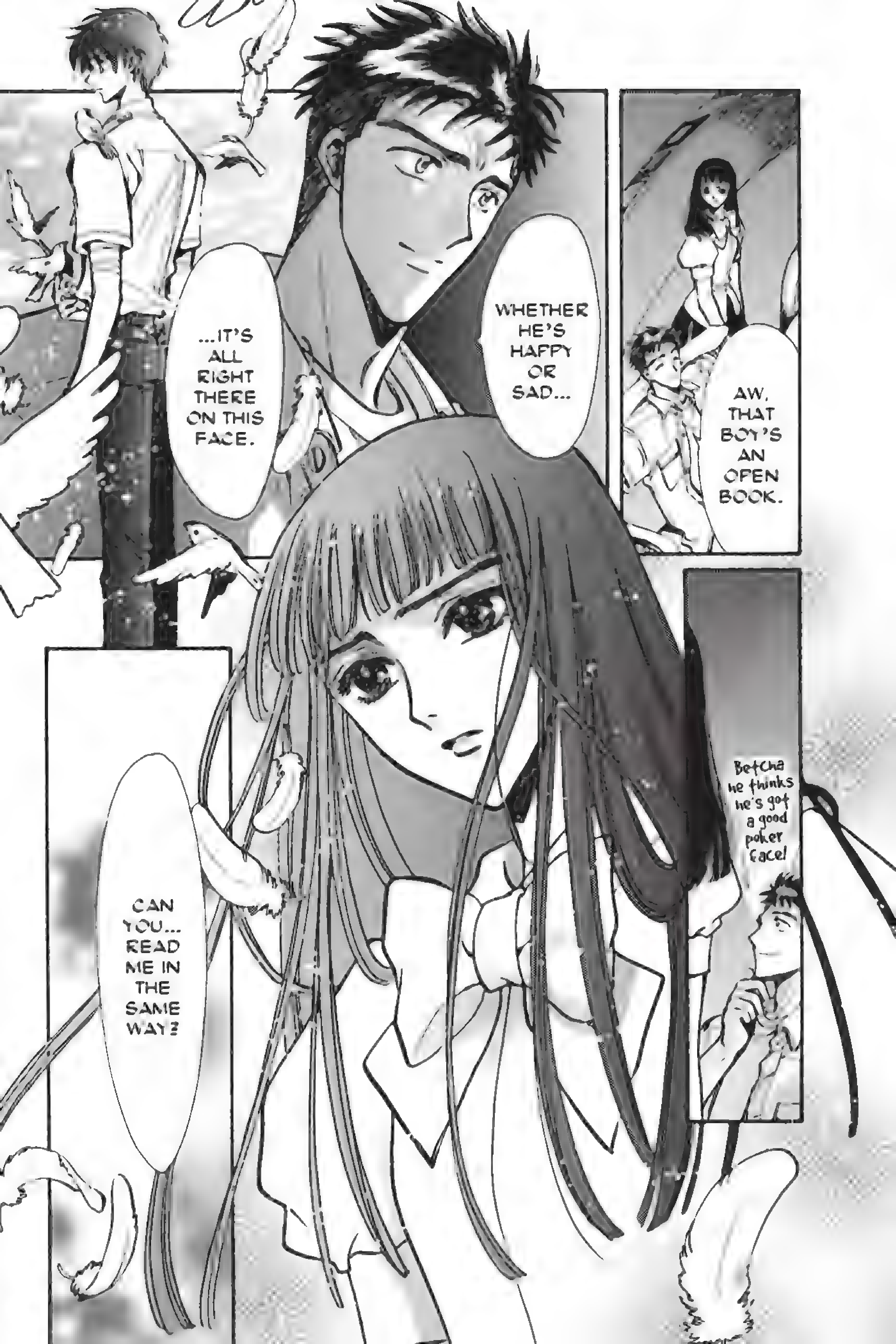

BUT, AS WITH ANY CIRCLE, ONCE PART OF IT IS BREACHED, IT CANNOT HOLD.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE YAMAMOTE LINE IS NOW COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

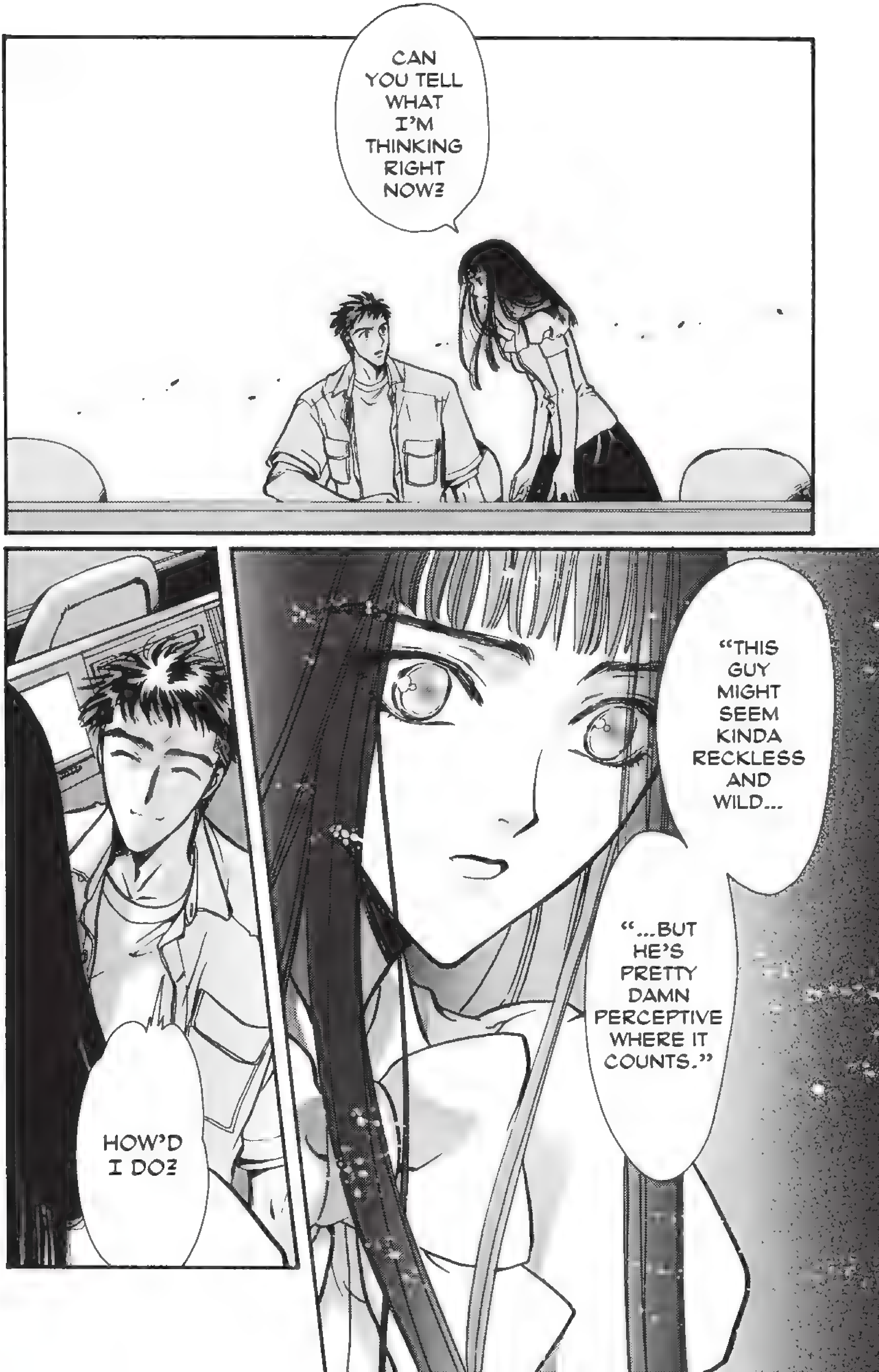

WELL, THEN.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD TREAT OURSELVES TO SOME OF TOKYO'S REMAINING DELICACIES BEFORE THE ENTIRE CITY IS LEVELED.
ROOOAAR
I KNOW A WONDERFUL LITTLE CREPERIE. CARE TO START THERE?
LEAD THE WAY.

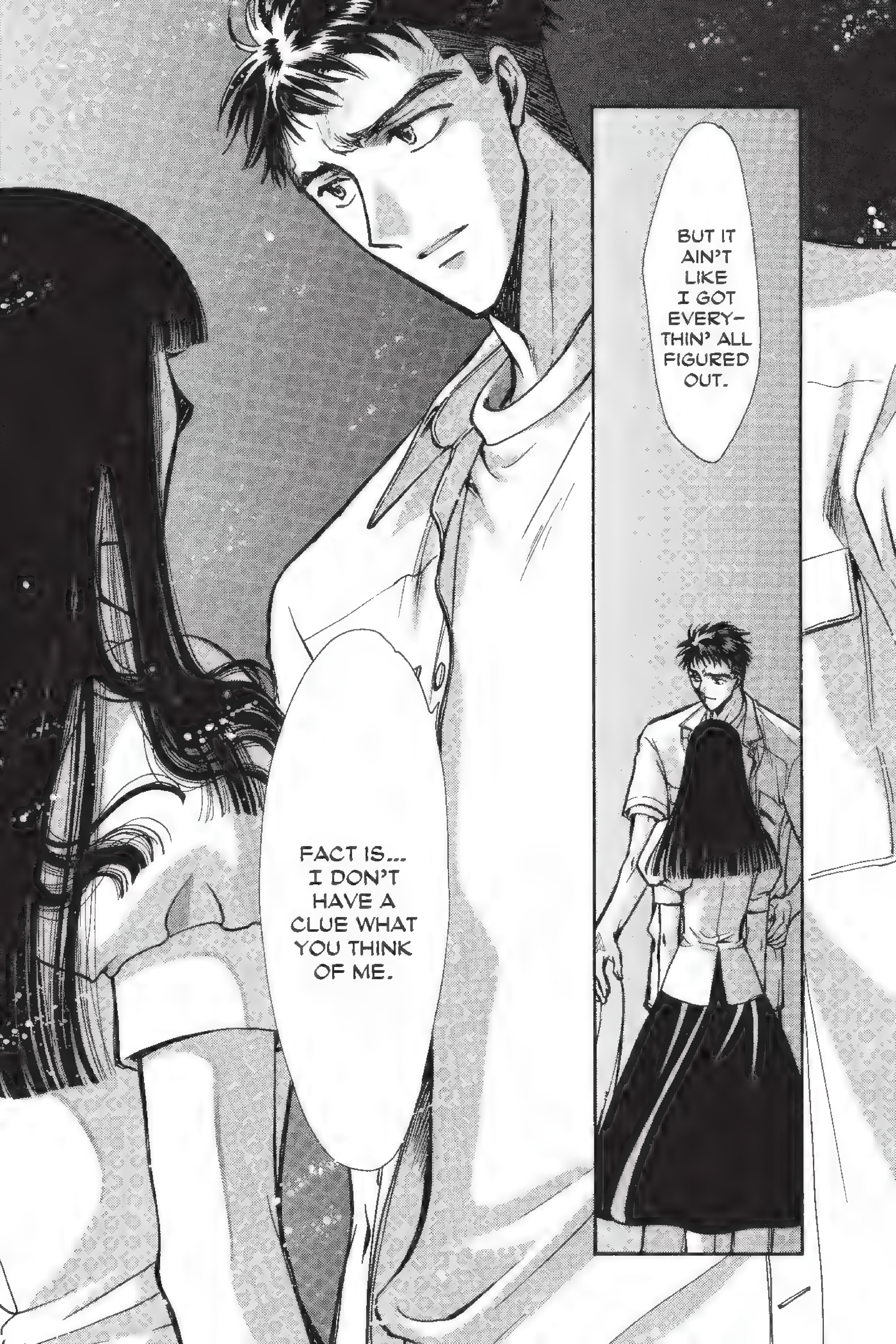

THE YAMANOTE LINE'S GONE.
BEEP
THEY TOOK OUT THE KEKKAI AT SHIBUYA 109...
...AND THEN SHIBUYA STATION, AND THEN SPREAD THE DESTRUCTION FROM THERE.
BEEP
THAT LINE WAS ONE OF THE KEYSTONES IN THE WEB OF KEKKAI KEEPIN' TOKYO SAFE.
THIS IS *REAL* BAD...
YES, IT IS.

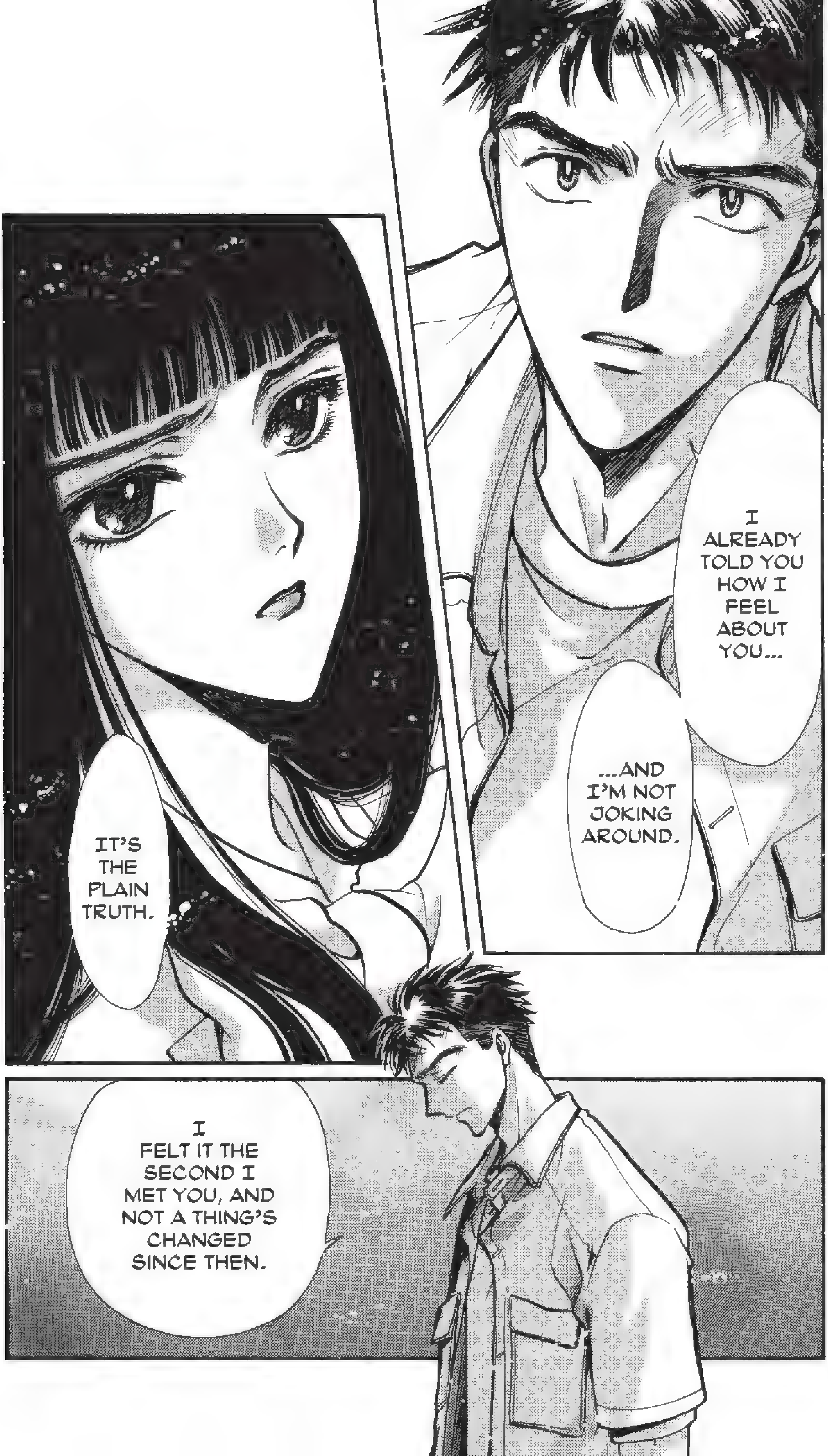

IS THE PRINCESS FEELIN' ANY BETTER?
SHE'S BEEN RESTING, BUT SHE'S STILL UNWELL.
SO SHE CAN'T PREDICT WHICH KEKKAI THEY'RE GOIN' AFTER NEXT. THEY'VE STILL GOT ONE UP ON US.
THE THING IS...
...WE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE, AND WE GOT NO WAY OF KNOWIN' WHERE THEY'LL STRIKE NEXT.
LEAN
AND NOW THAT THEY GOT THEMSELVES A DREAMSEER THEY'LL ALWAYS KNOW WHAT OUR NEXT MOVE'S GONNA BE.

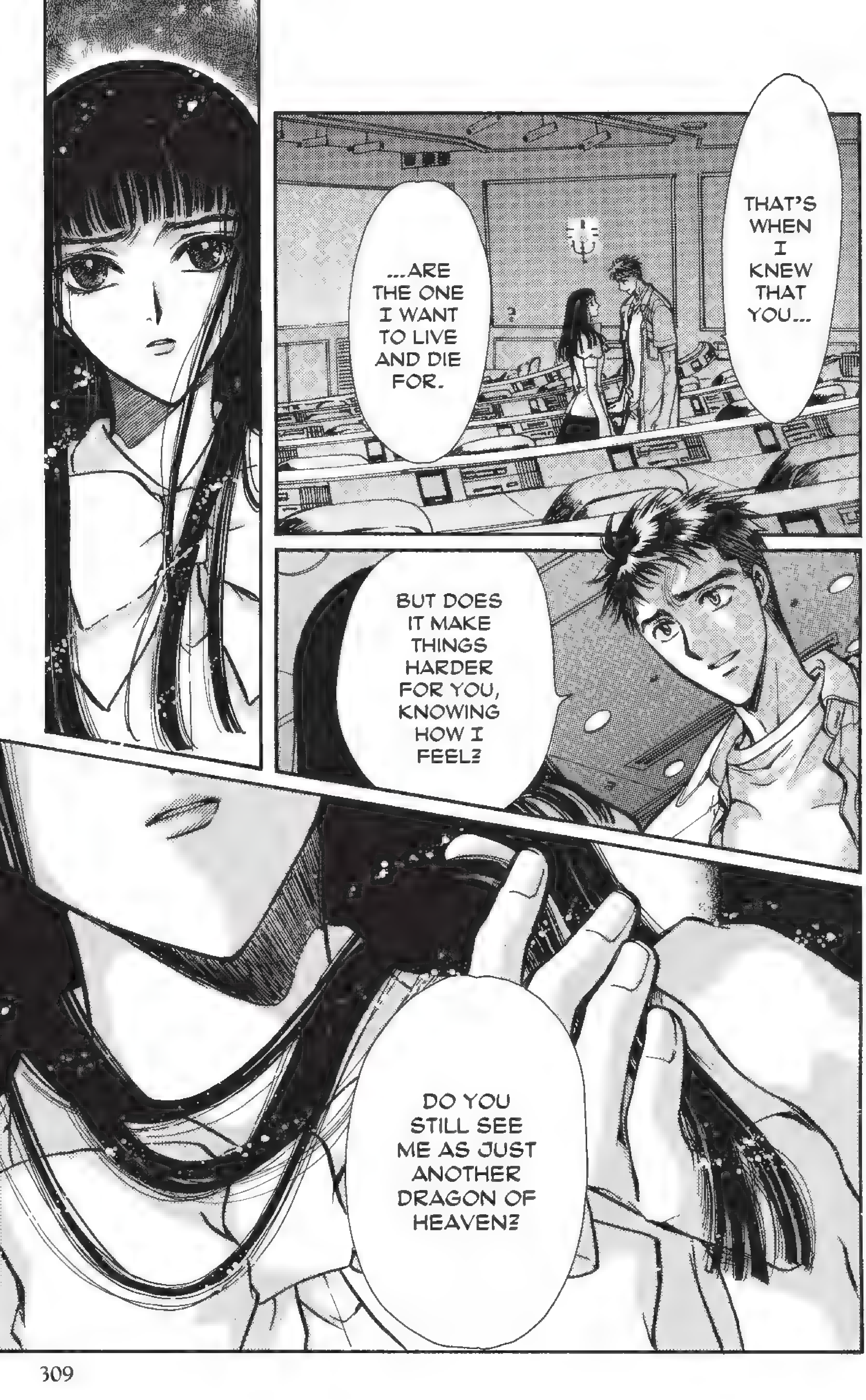

AFTER KAMUI TALKED TO HER...
...HE KINDA LOOKED LIKE SOMETHIN' WAS WEIGHIN' ON HIS MIND.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT DREAM...
SOMETHIN' WRONG? Y'LOOK SURPRISED.
I... IT'S ONLY THAT I FAILED TO NOTICE...
...THE CHANGE IN KAMUI'S MOOD.

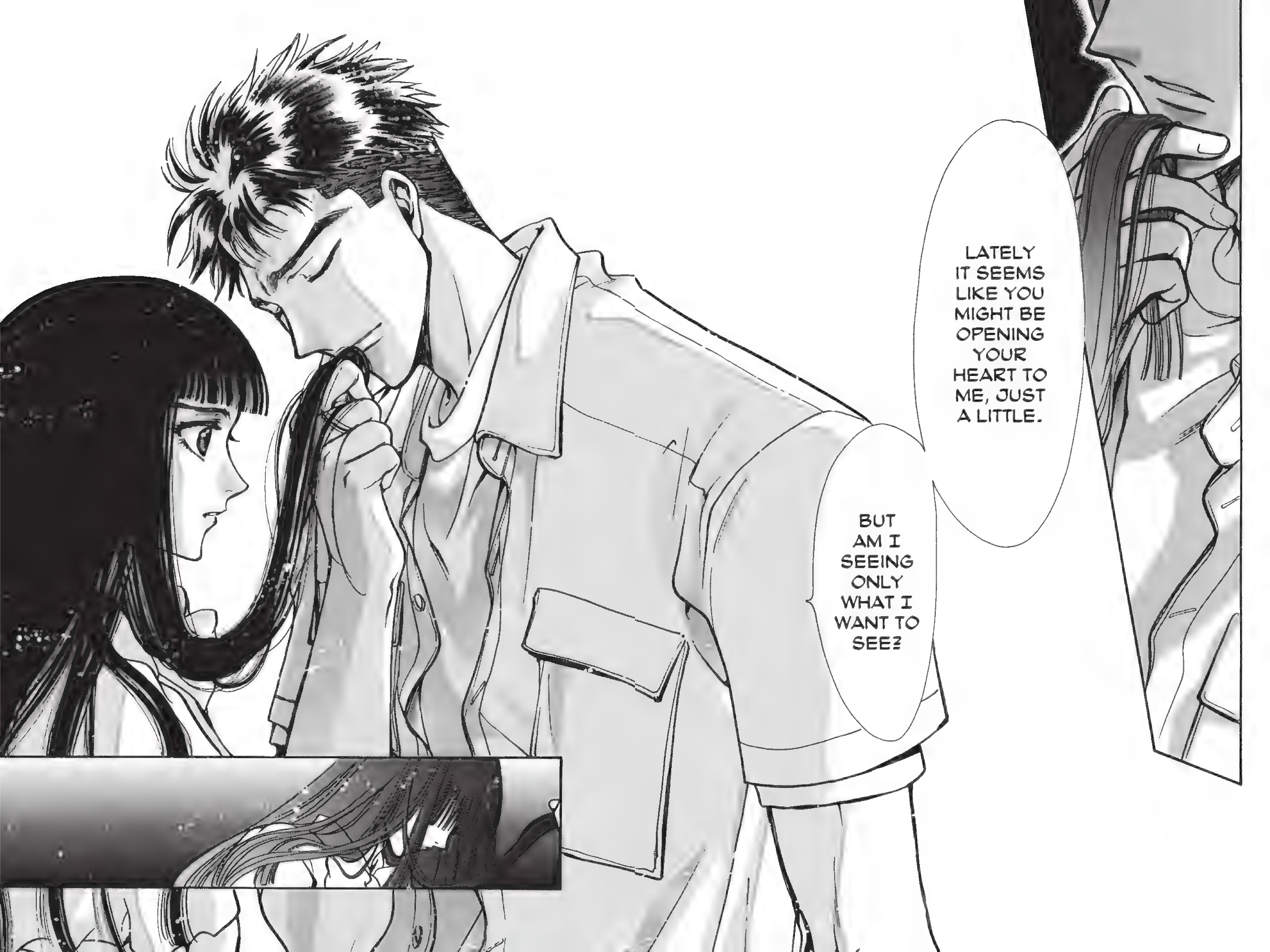

WHETHER HE'S HAPPY OR SAD...
...IT'S ALL RIGHT THERE ON THIS FACE.
AW, THAT BOY'S AN OPEN BOOK.
Betcha he thinks he's got a good poker face!
CAN YOU... READ ME IN THE SAME WAY?

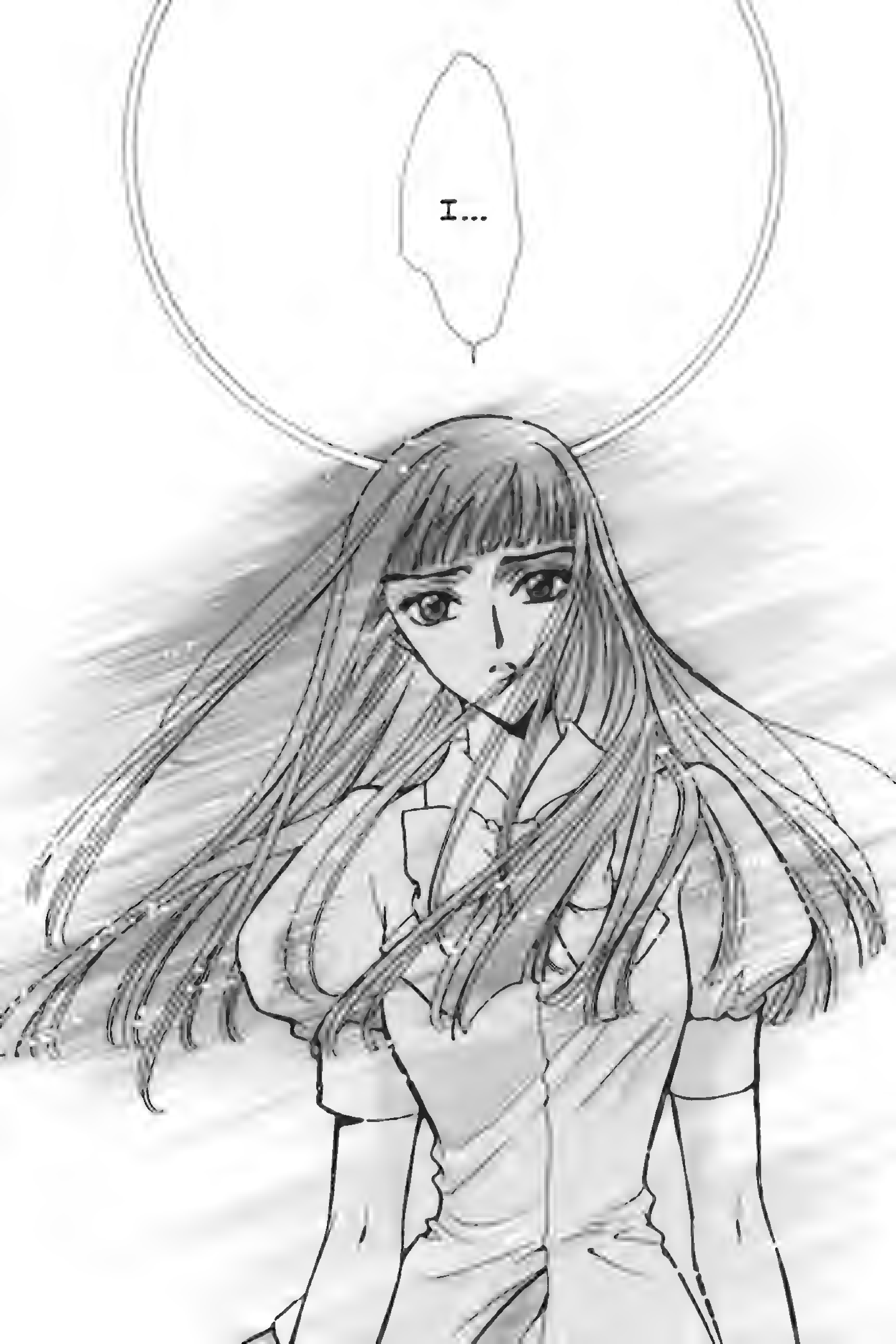

CAN YOU TELL WHAT I'M THINKING RIGHT NOW?
"THIS GUY MIGHT SEEM KINDA RECKLESS AND WILD...
"...BUT HE'S PRETTY DAMN PERCEPTIVE WHERE IT COUNTS."
HOW'D I DO?

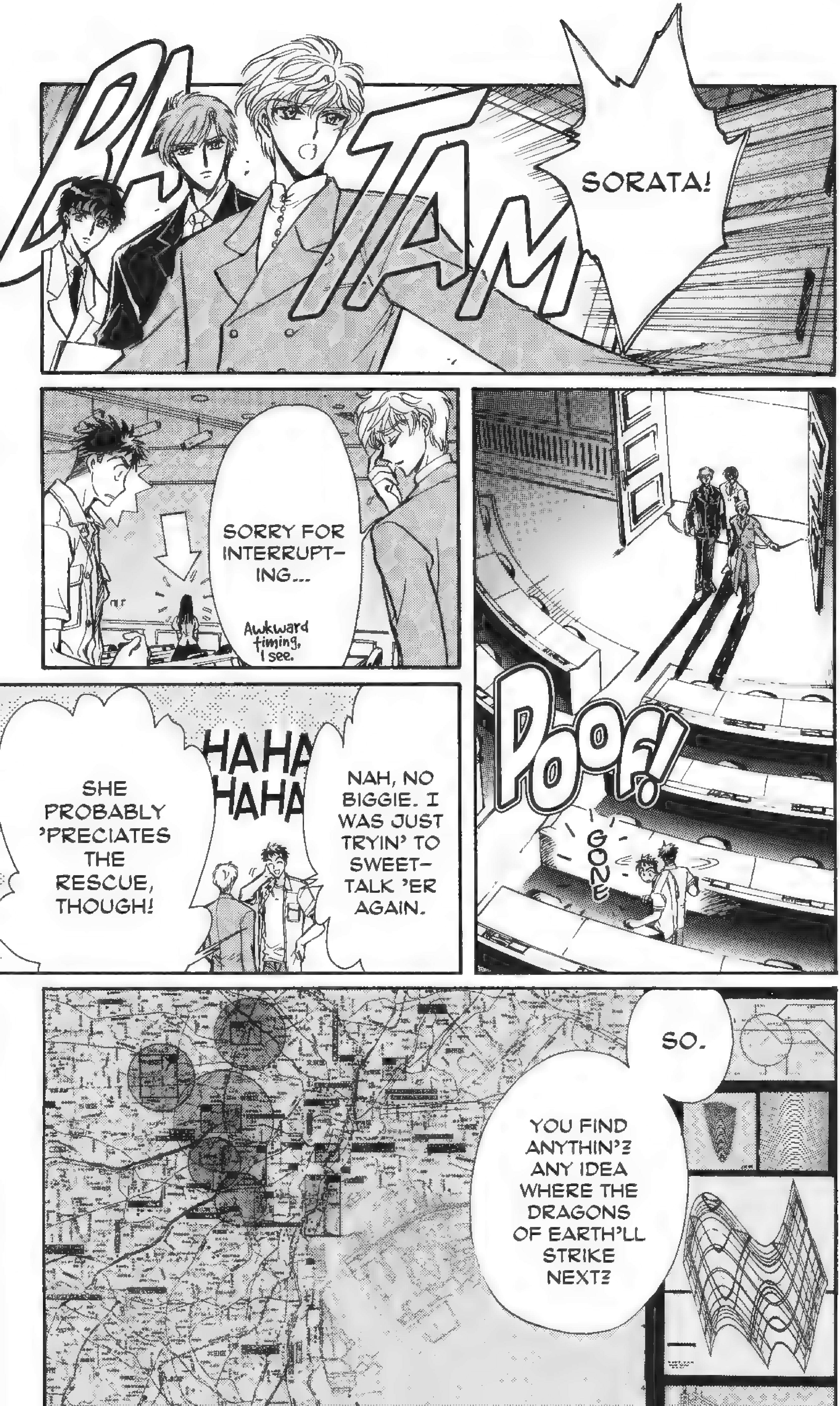

BUT IT AIN'T LIKE I GOT EVERYTHIN' ALL FIGURED OUT.
FACT IS... I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT YOU THINK OF ME.

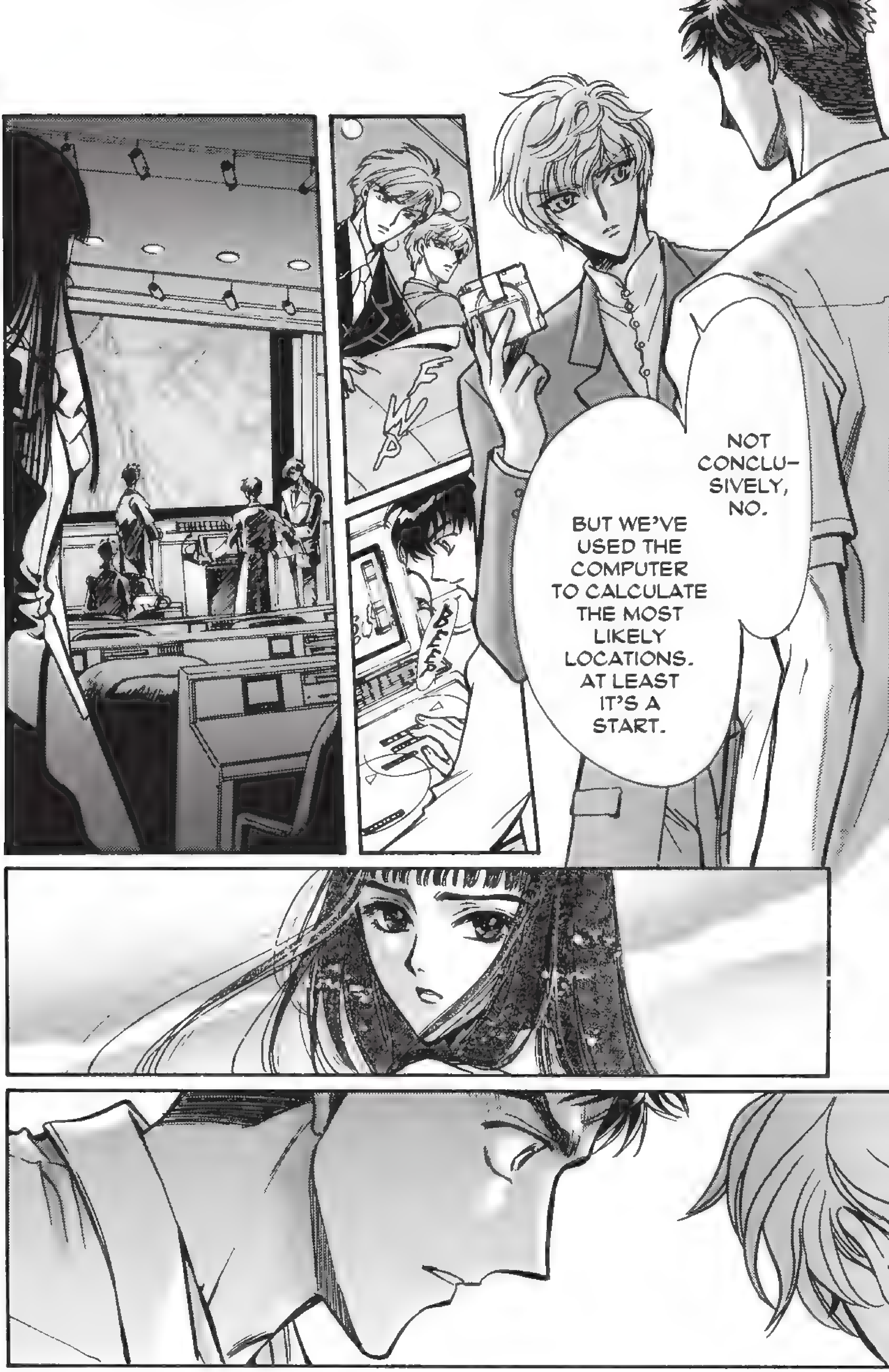

I ALREADY TOLD YOU HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU...
...AND I'M NOT JOKING AROUND.
IT'S THE PLAIN TRUTH.
I FELT IT THE SECOND I MET YOU, AND NOT A THING'S CHANGED SINCE THEN.

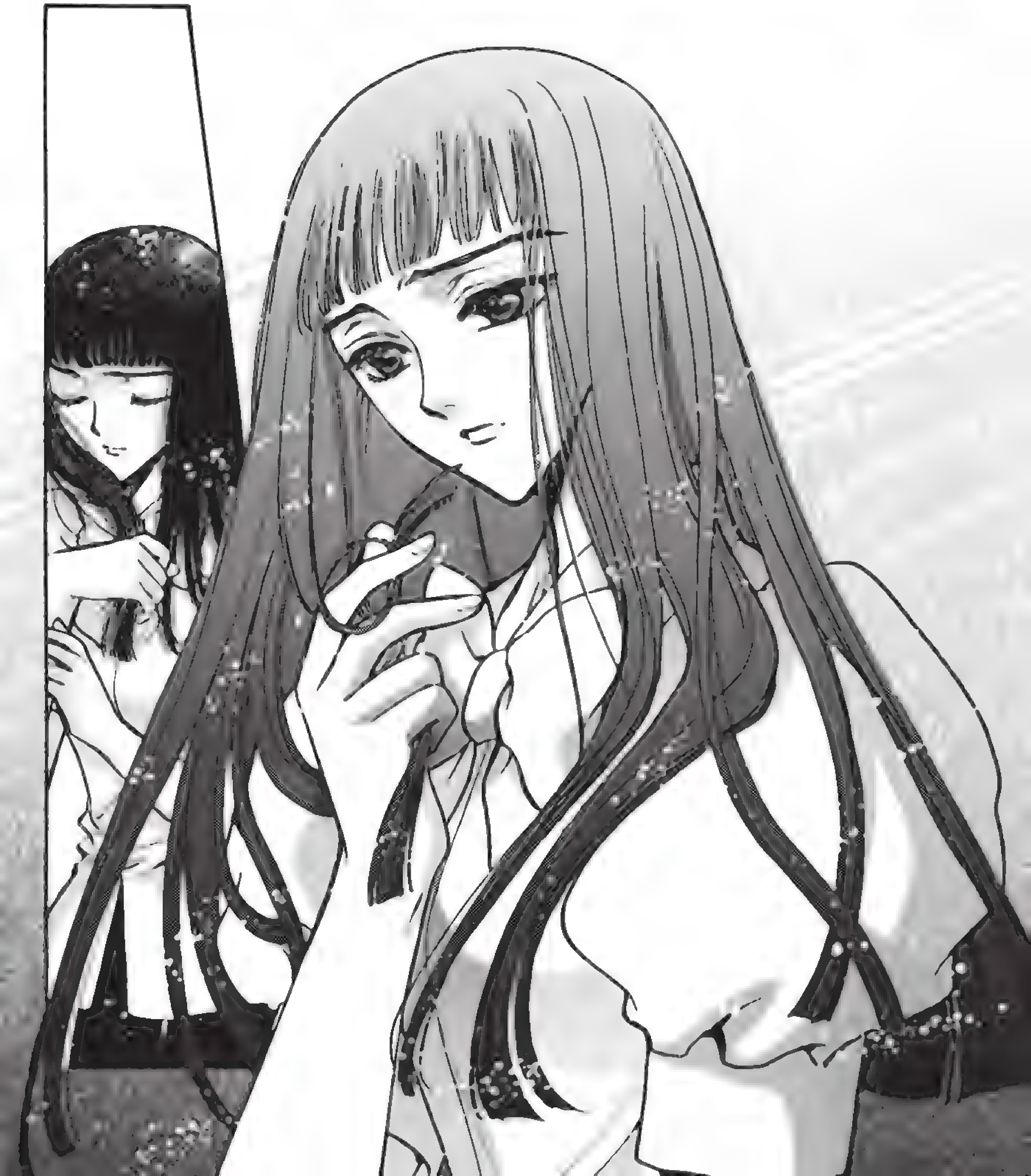

THAT'S WHEN I KNEW THAT YOU...
...ARE THE ONE I WANT TO LIVE AND DIE FOR.
?
BUT DOES IT MAKE THINGS HARDER FOR YOU, KNOWING HOW I FEEL?
DO YOU STILL SEE ME AS JUST ANOTHER DRAGON OF HEAVEN?

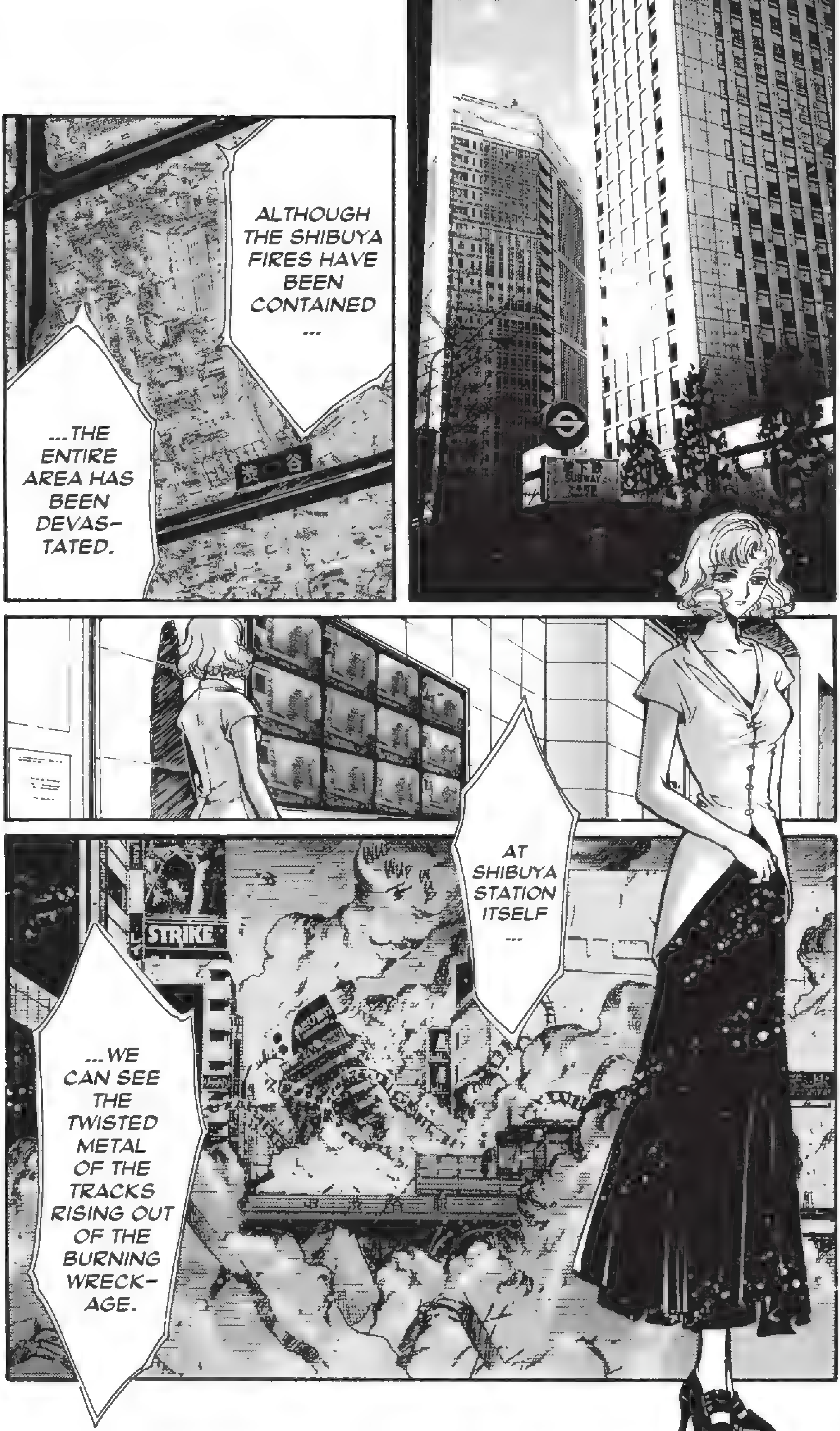

LATELY IT SEEMS LIKE YOU MIGHT BE OPENING YOUR HEART TO ME, JUST A LITTLE.
BUT AM I SEEING ONLY WHAT I WANT TO SEE?

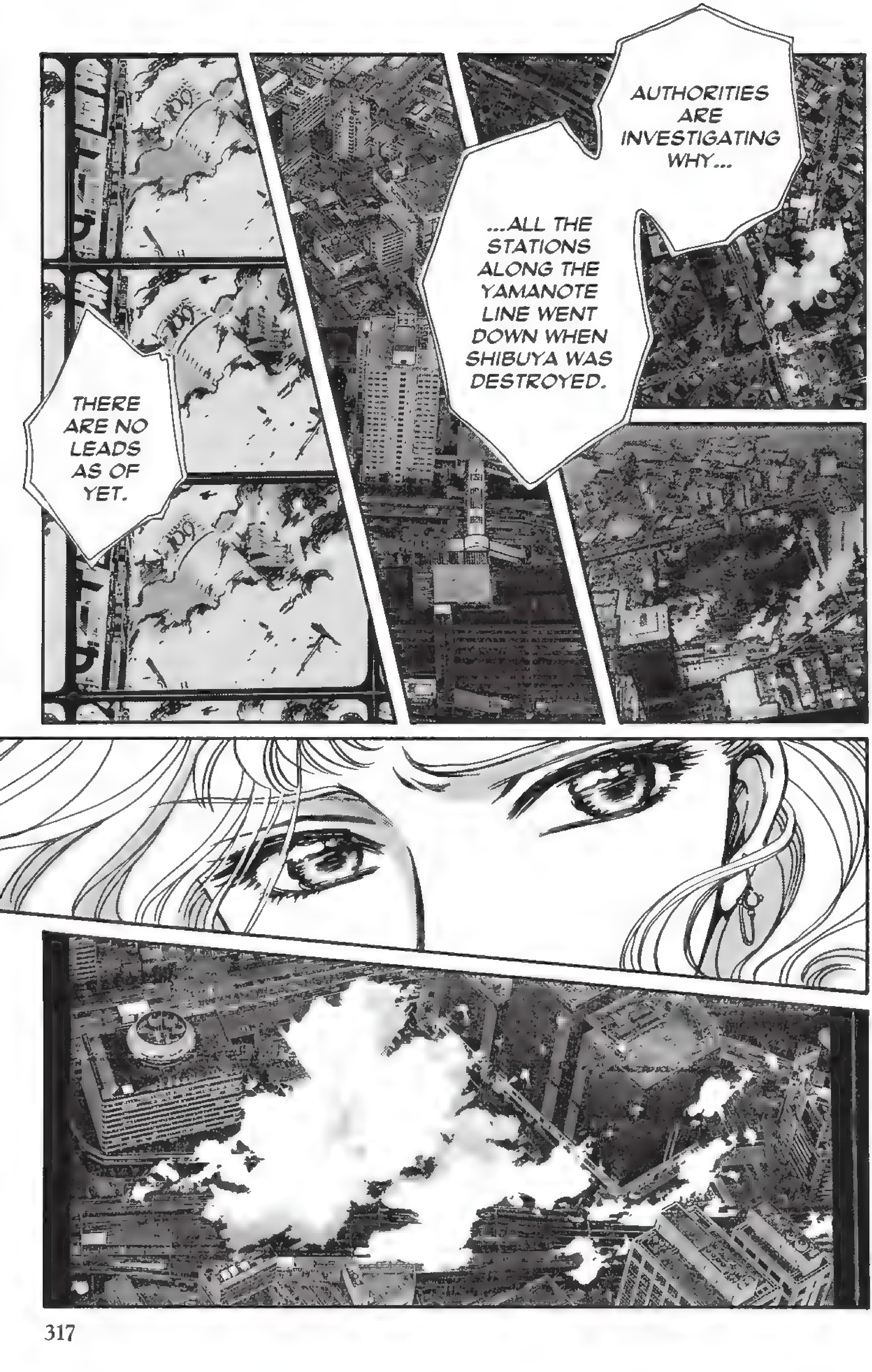

I...

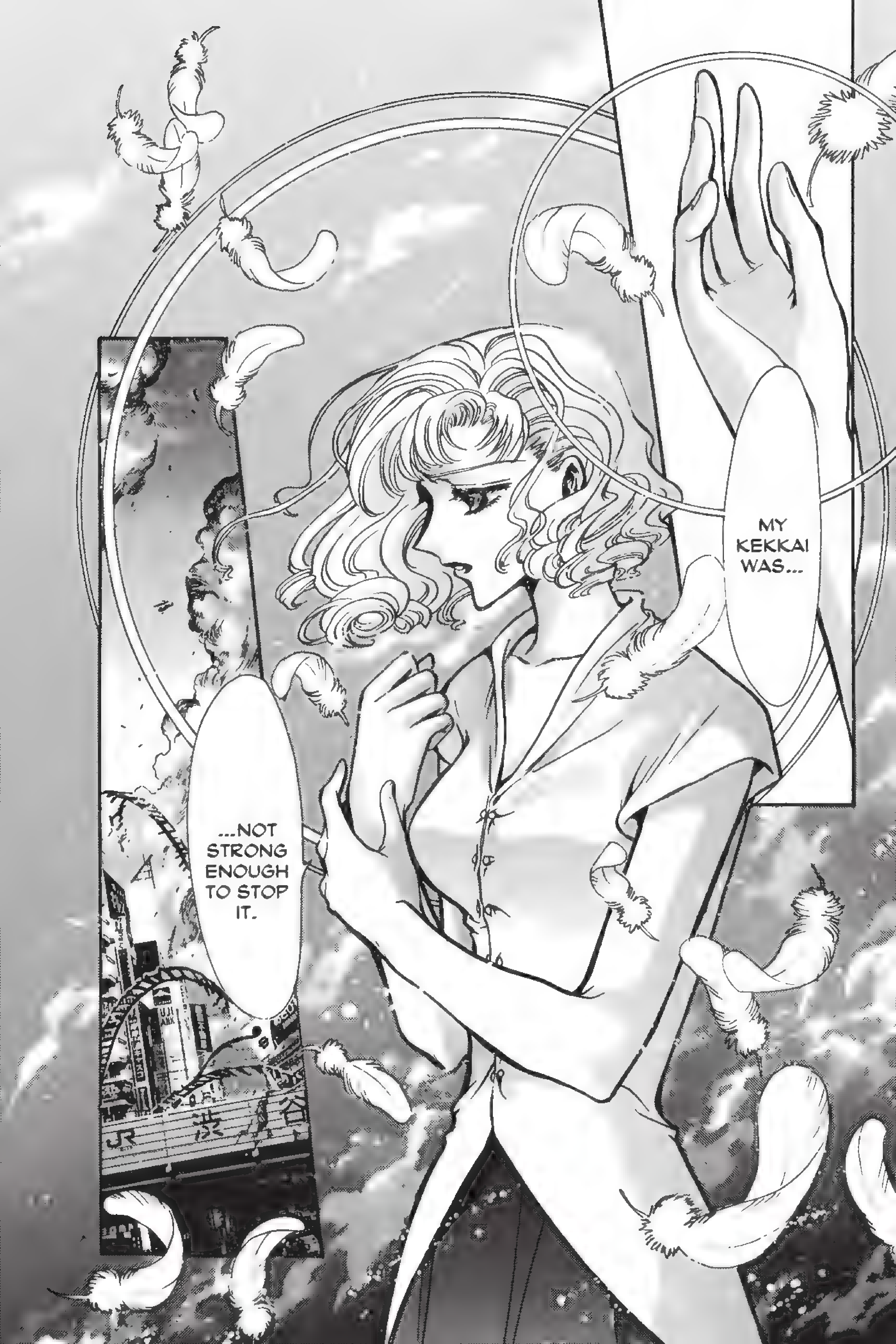

PATAM
SORATA!
POOF!
GONE
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING...
Awkward timing, I see.
NAH, NO BIGGIE. I WAS JUST TRYIN' TO SWEET-TALK 'ER AGAIN.
HAHA HAHA
SHE PROBABLY 'PRECIATES THE RESCUE, THOUGH!
SO.
YOU FIND ANYTHIN'? ANY IDEA WHERE THE DRAGONS OF EARTH'LL STRIKE NEXT?

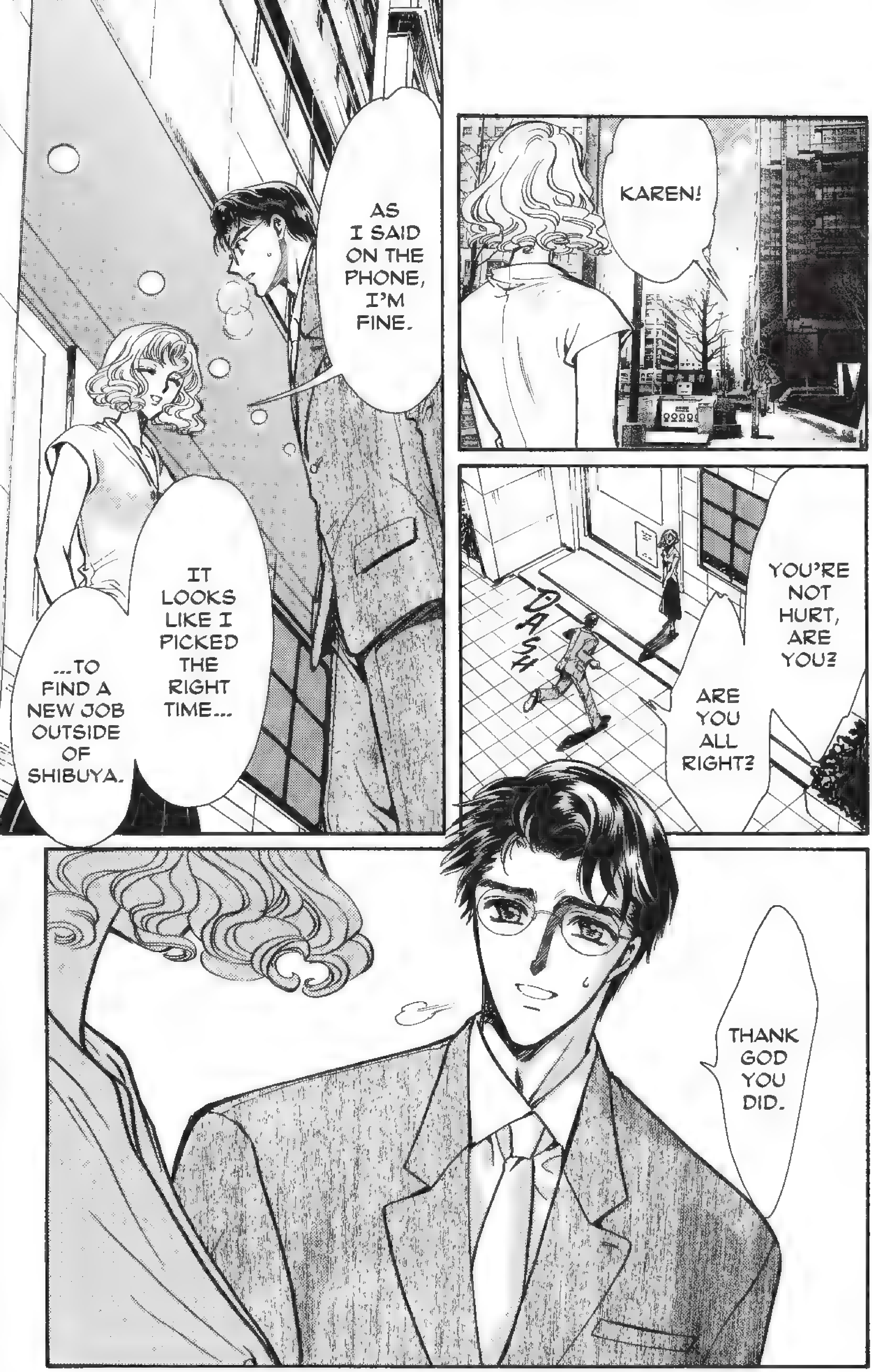

NOT CONCLUSIVELY, NO.
BUT WE'VE USED THE COMPUTER TO CALCULATE THE MOST LIKELY LOCATIONS. AT LEAST IT'S A START.
BEEP

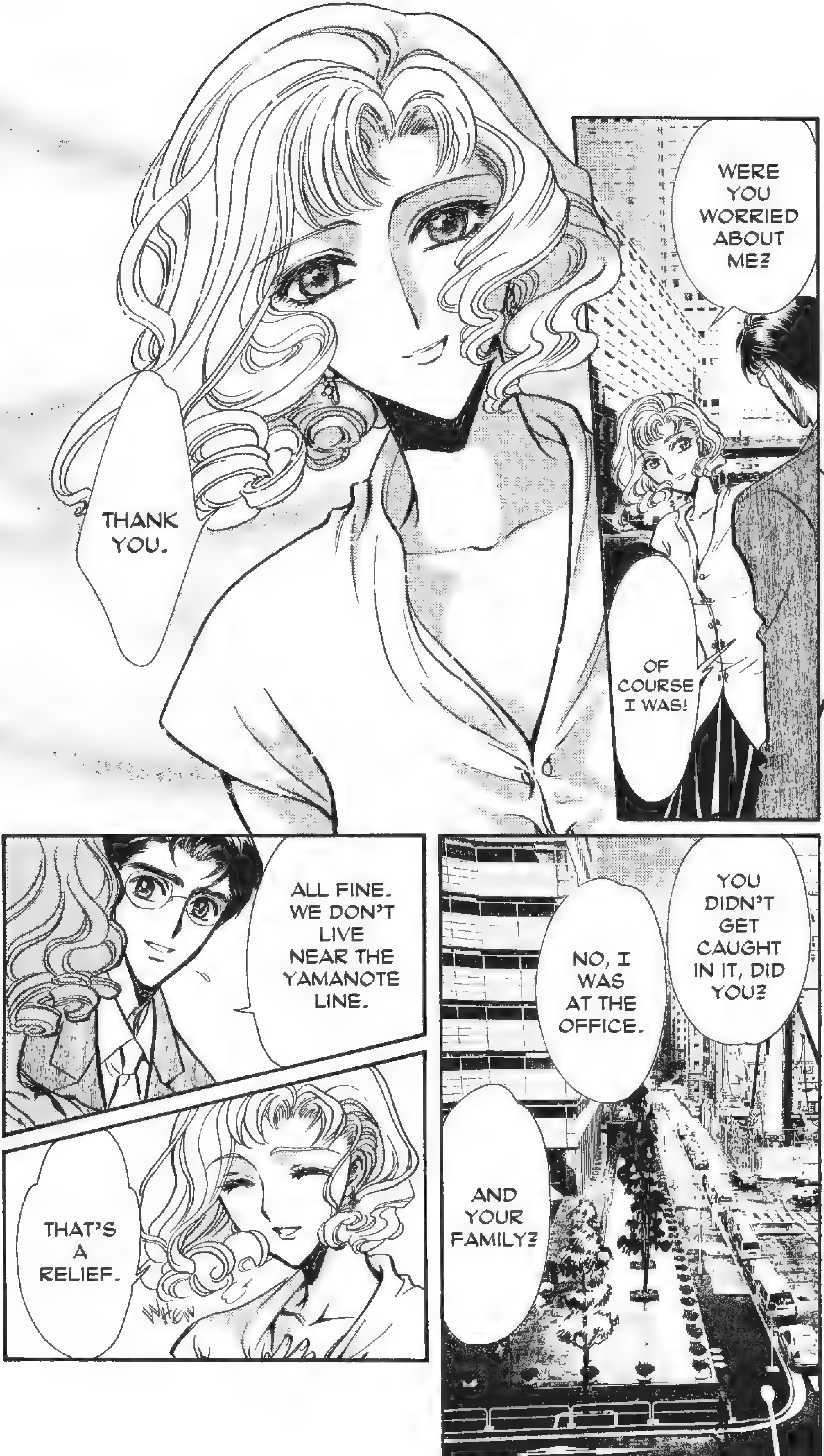


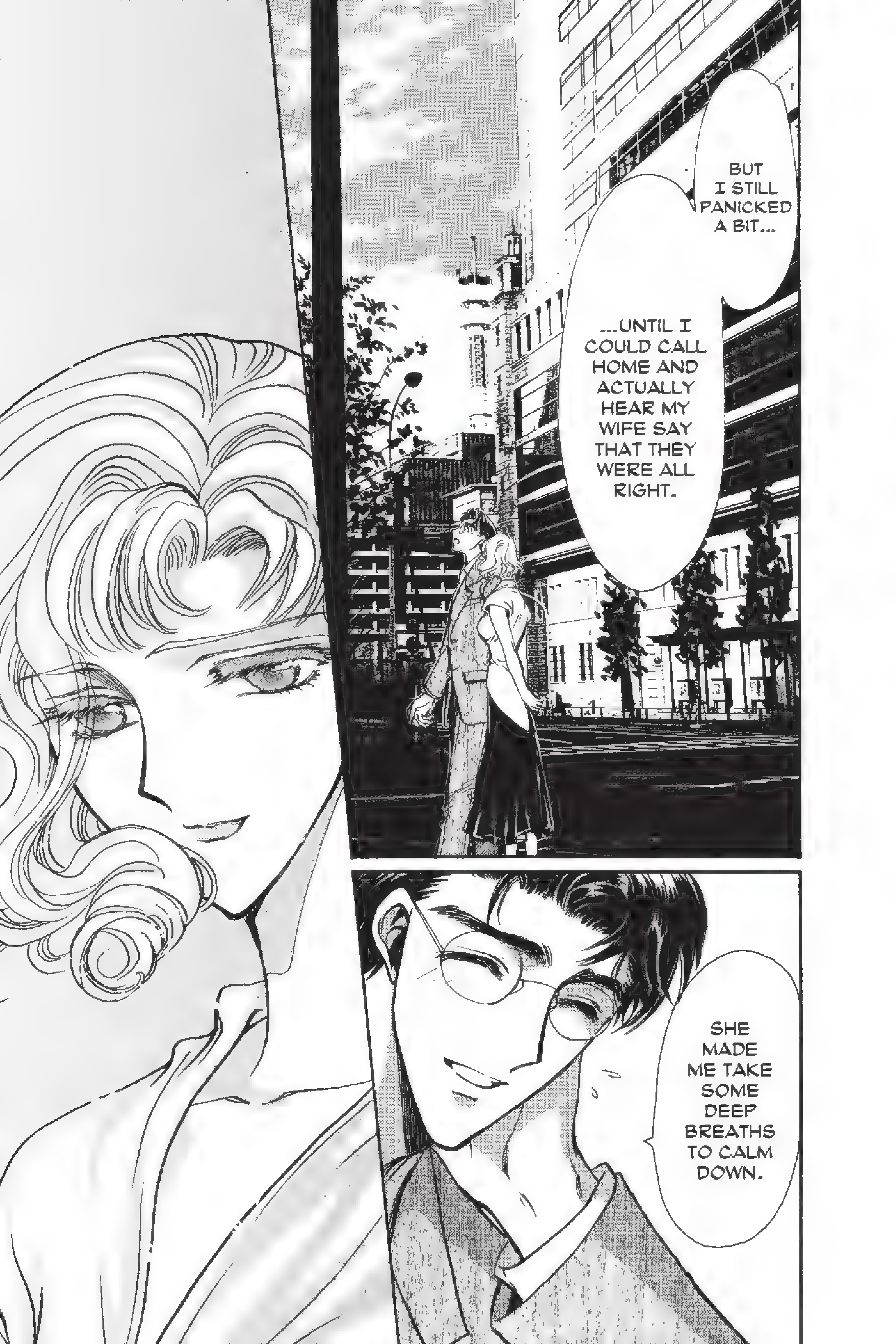

ALTHOUGH THE SHIBUYA FIRES HAVE BEEN CONTAINED ...
...THE ENTIRE AREA HAS BEEN DEVASTATED.
渋谷
SUBWAY
AT SHIBUYA STATION ITSELF ...
...WE CAN SEE THE TWISTED METAL OF THE TRACKS RISING OUT OF THE BURNING WRECKAGE.
STRIKE

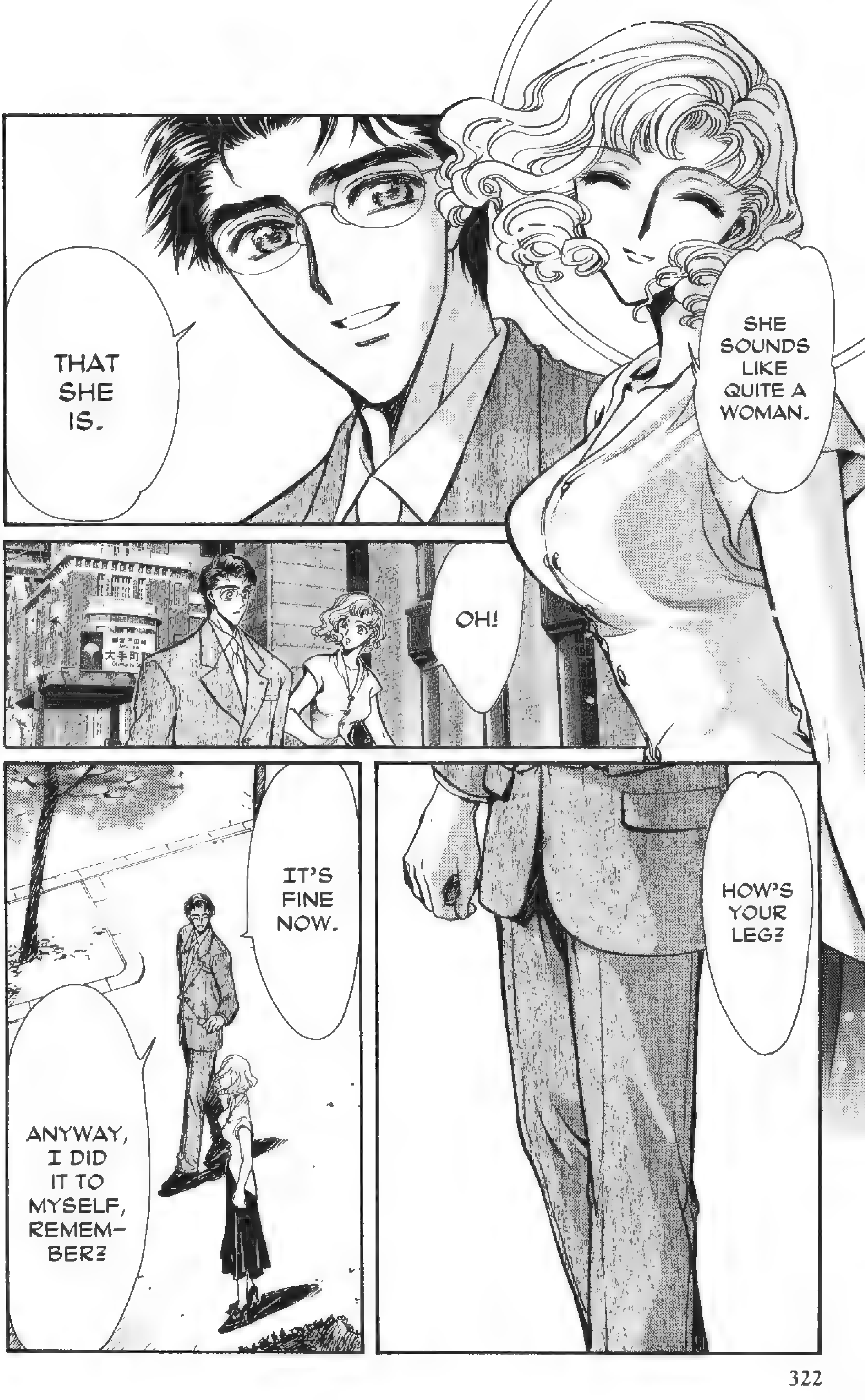

AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING WHY...
...ALL THE STATIONS ALONG THE YAMANOTE LINE WENT DOWN WHEN SHIBUYA WAS DESTROYED.
THERE ARE NO LEADS AS OF YET.

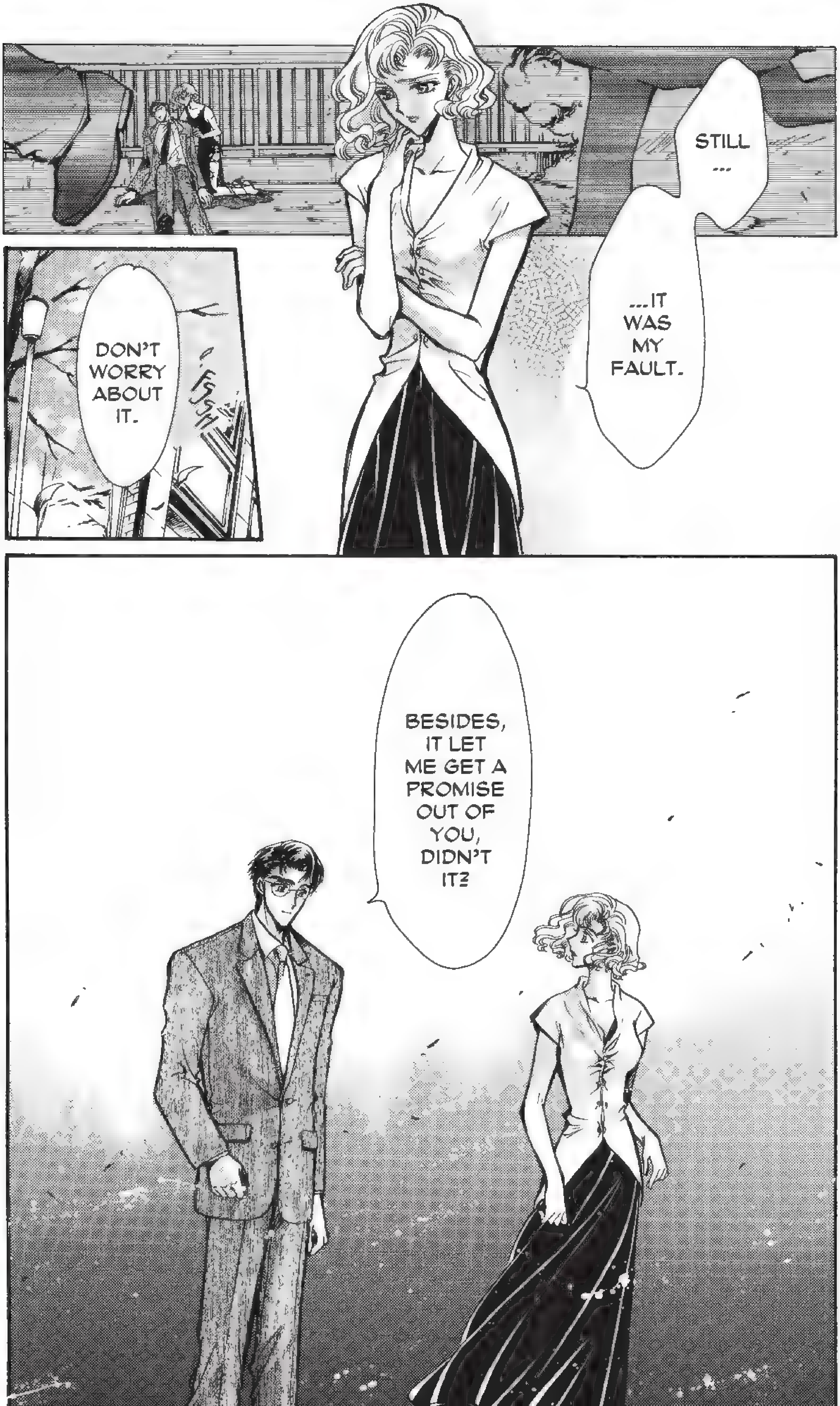

MY KEKKAI WAS...
...NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP IT.

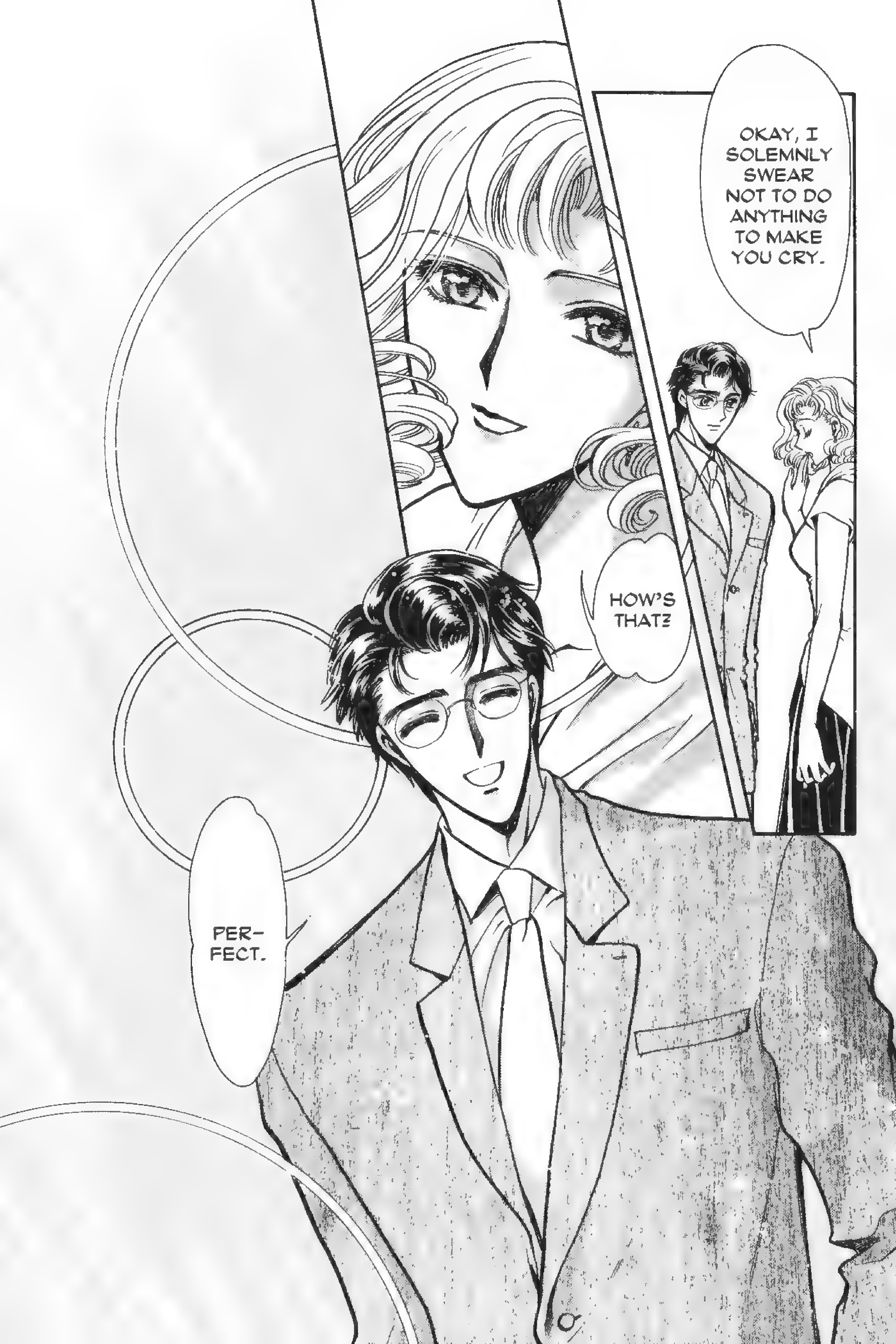

KAREN!
YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DASH
AS I SAID ON THE PHONE, I'M FINE.
IT LOOKS LIKE I PICKED THE RIGHT TIME...
...TO FIND A NEW JOB OUTSIDE OF SHIBUYA.
THANK GOD YOU DID.

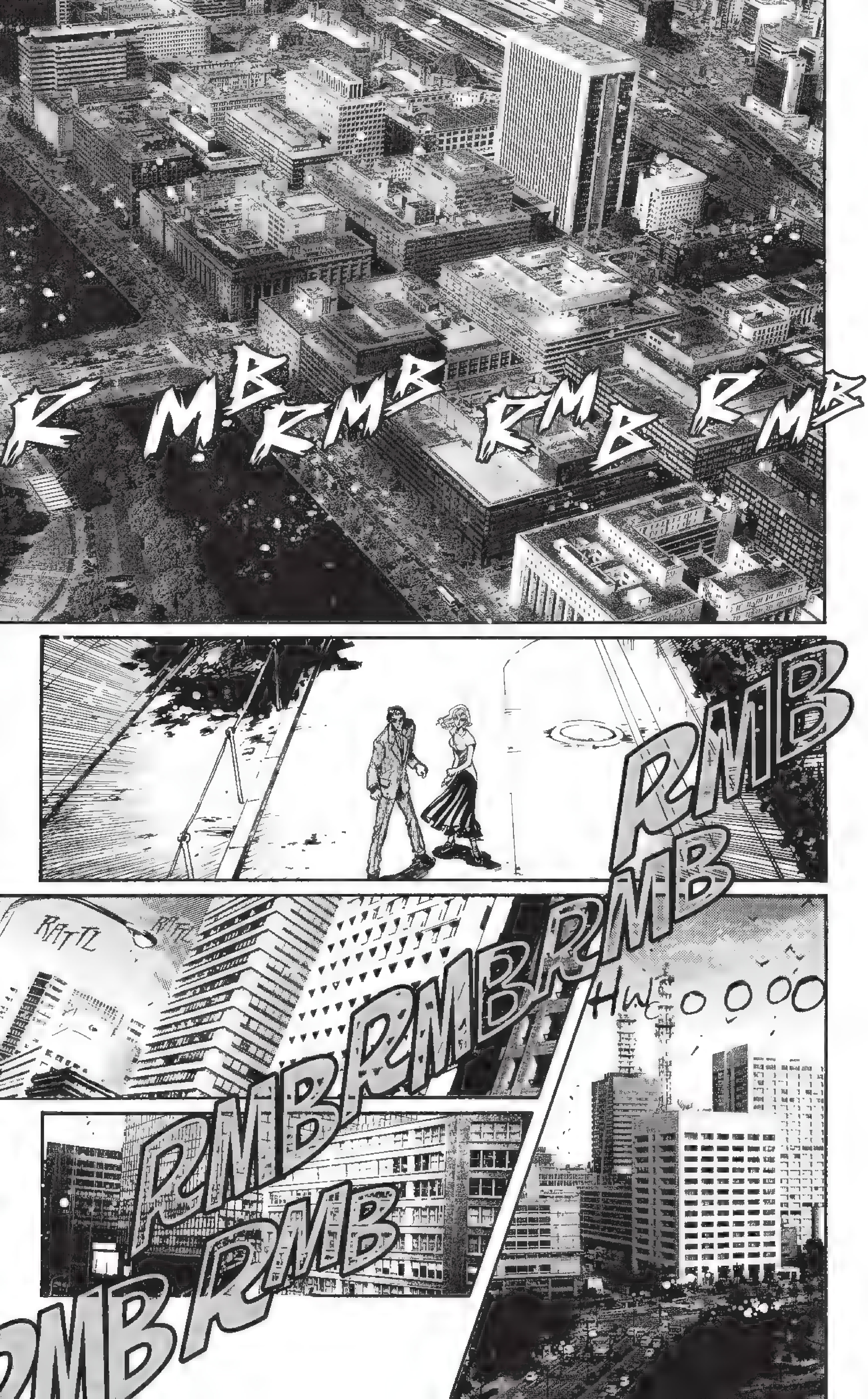

WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?
OF COURSE I WAS!
THANK YOU.
YOU DIDN'T GET CAUGHT IN IT, DID YOU?
NO, I WAS AT THE OFFICE.
AND YOUR FAMILY?
ALL FINE. WE DON'T LIVE NEAR THE YAMANOTE LINE.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
WHEW

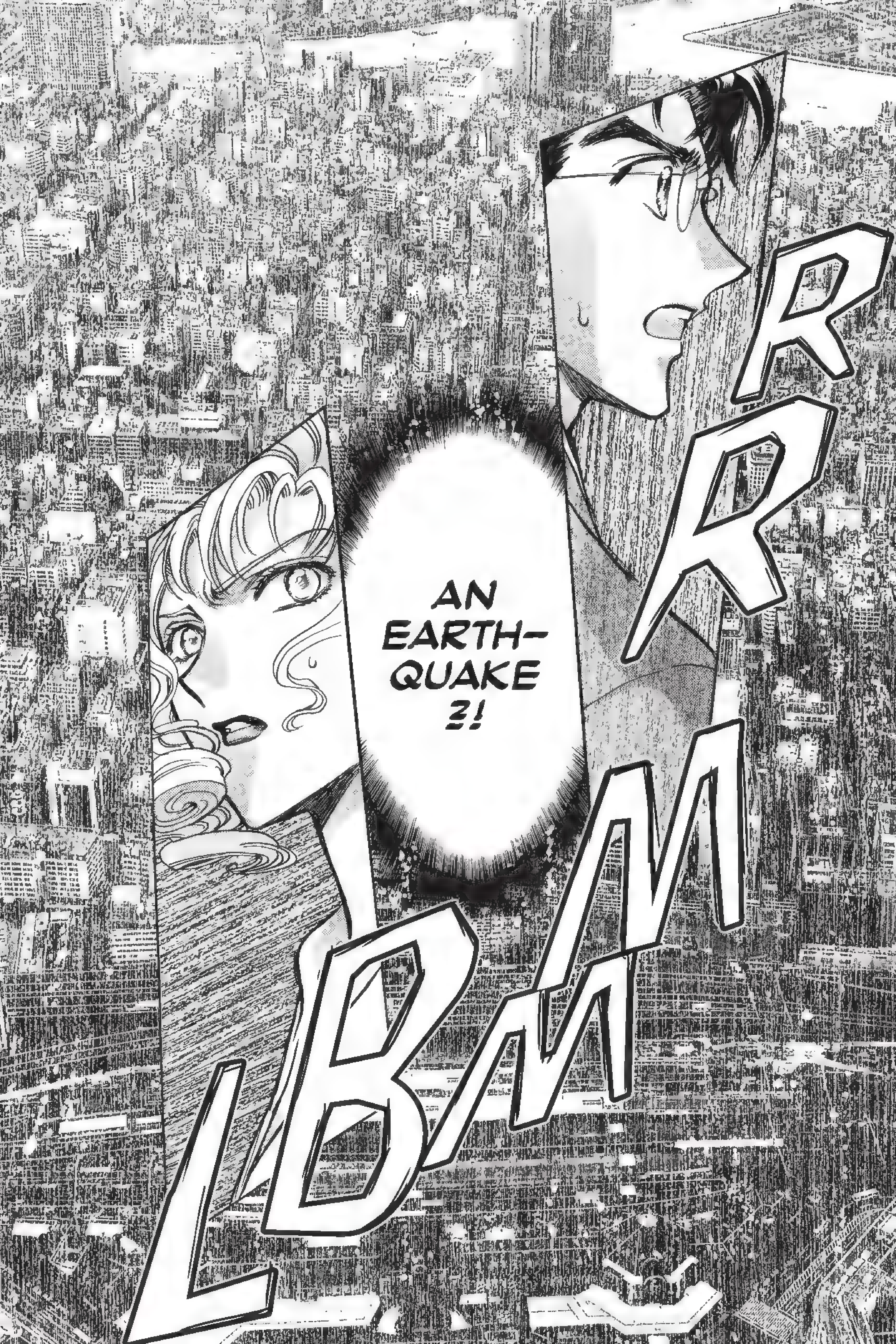

BUT I STILL PANICKED A BIT...
...UNTIL I COULD CALL HOME AND ACTUALLY HEAR MY WIFE SAY THAT THEY WERE ALL RIGHT.
SHE MADE ME TAKE SOME DEEP BREATHS TO CALM DOWN.

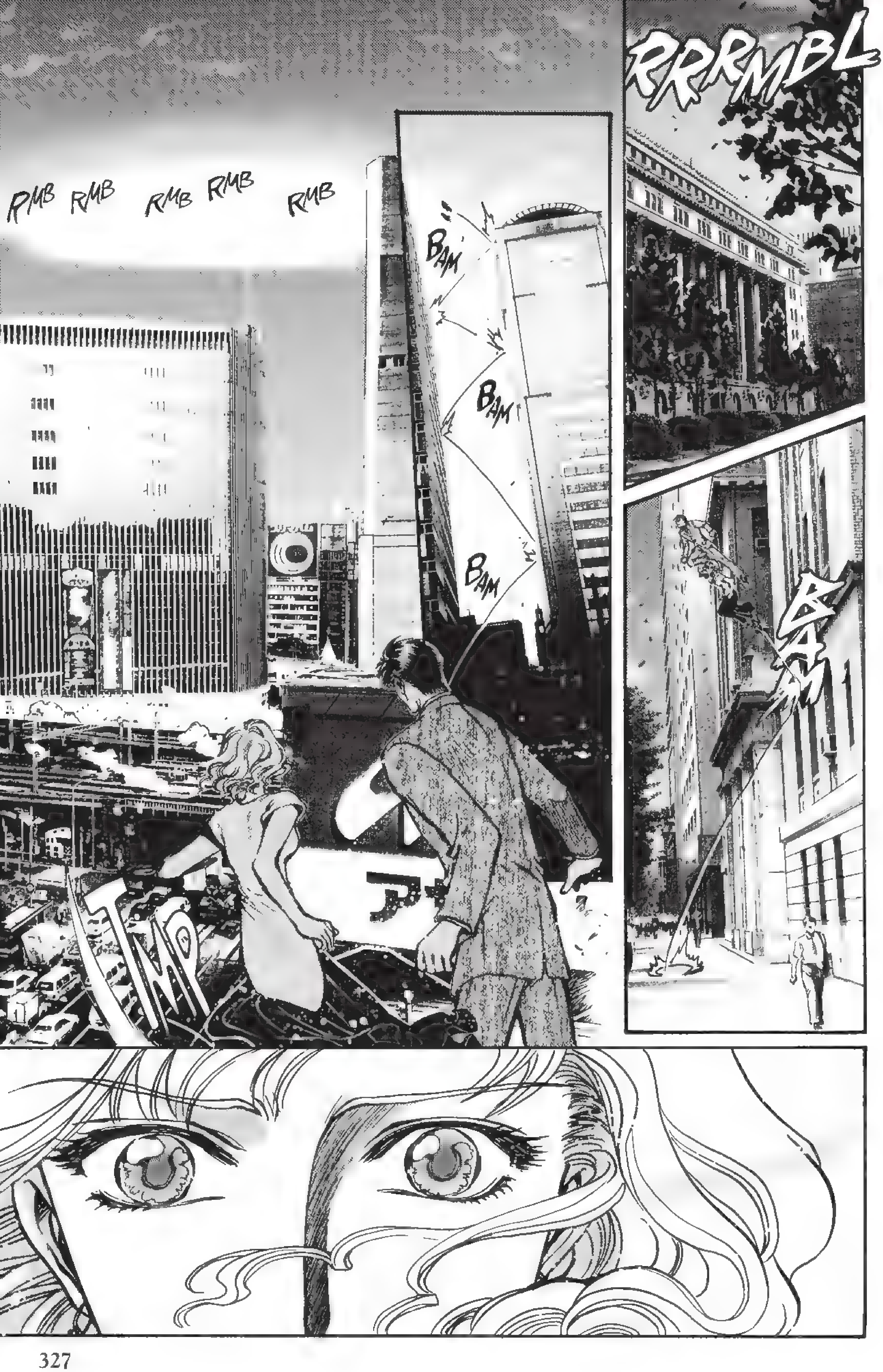

SHE SOUNDS LIKE QUITE A WOMAN.
THAT SHE IS.
大手町
OH!
HOW'S YOUR LEG?
IT'S FINE NOW.
ANYWAY, I DID IT TO MYSELF, REMEMBER?

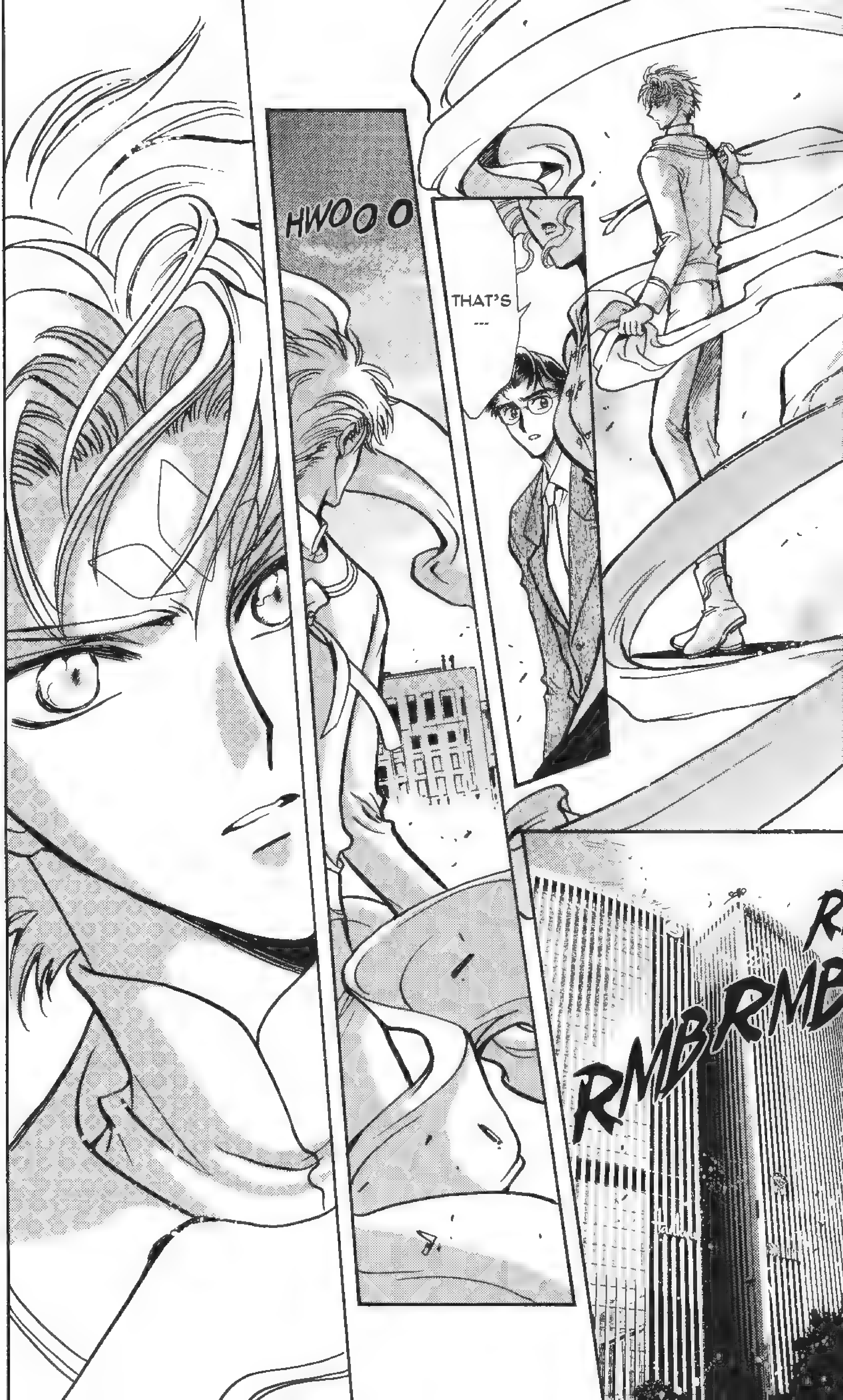

STILL ...
...IT WAS MY FAULT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BESIDES, IT LET ME GET A PROMISE OUT OF YOU, DIDN'T IT?

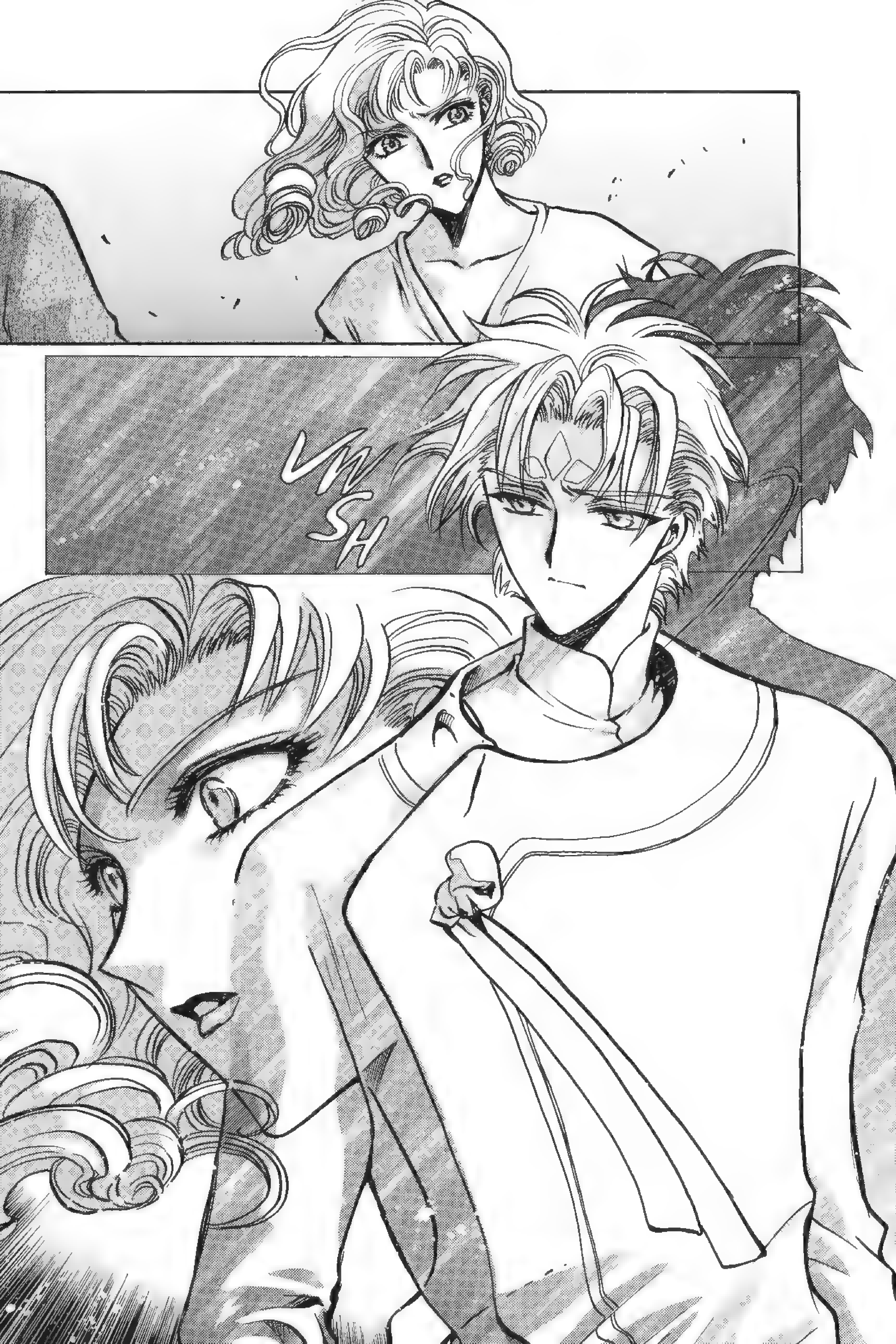

OKAY, I SOLEMNLY SWEAR NOT TO DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU CRY.
HOW'S THAT?
PERFECT.

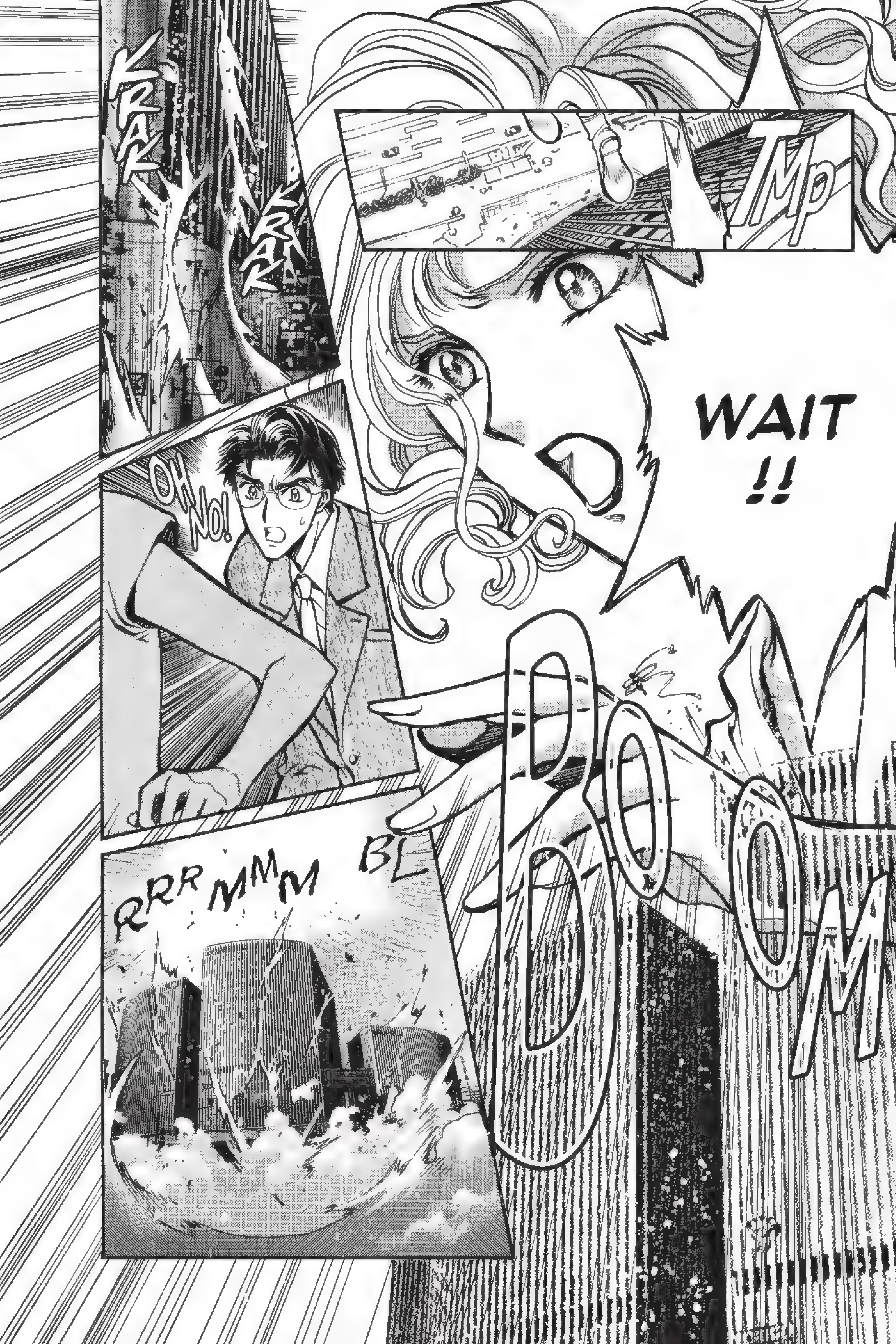

RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB
RMB RMB
RATTL RATTL
RMBRMBRMB
HWOOOO
RMB RMB
RMBRMB

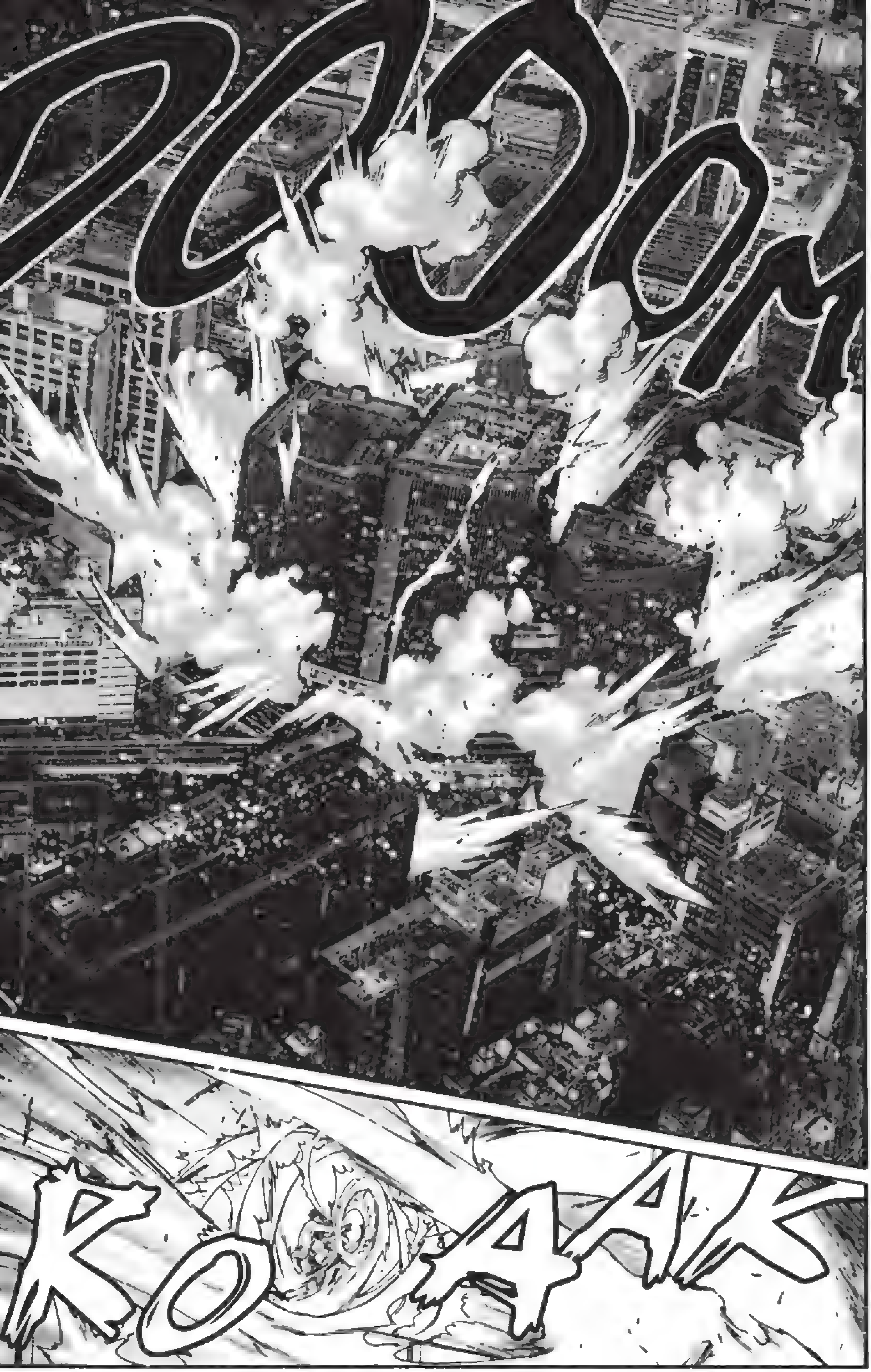

RRMMBL
AN EARTHQUAKE?!

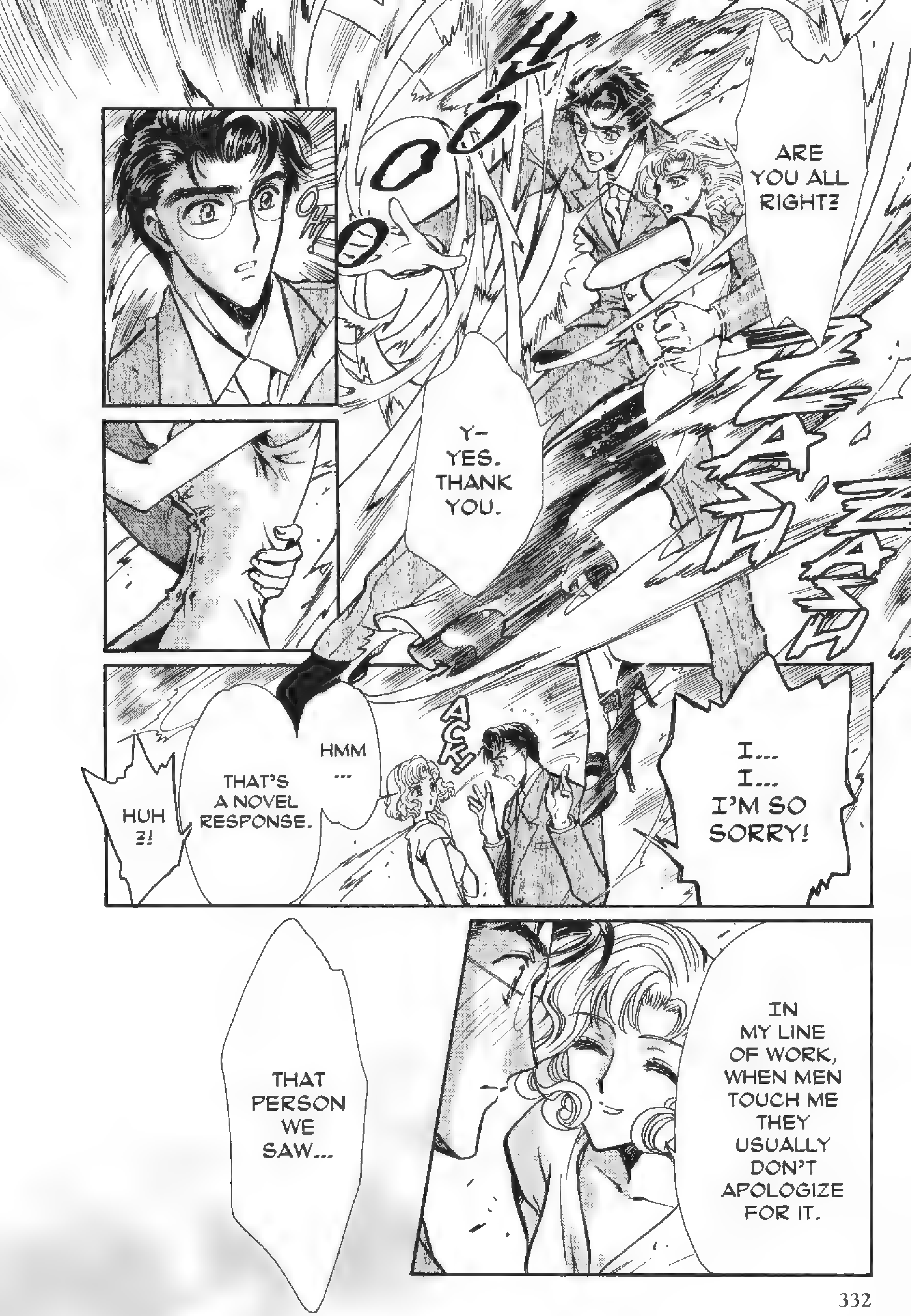

RRRMBL
BAM
RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB
BAM
BAM
BAM

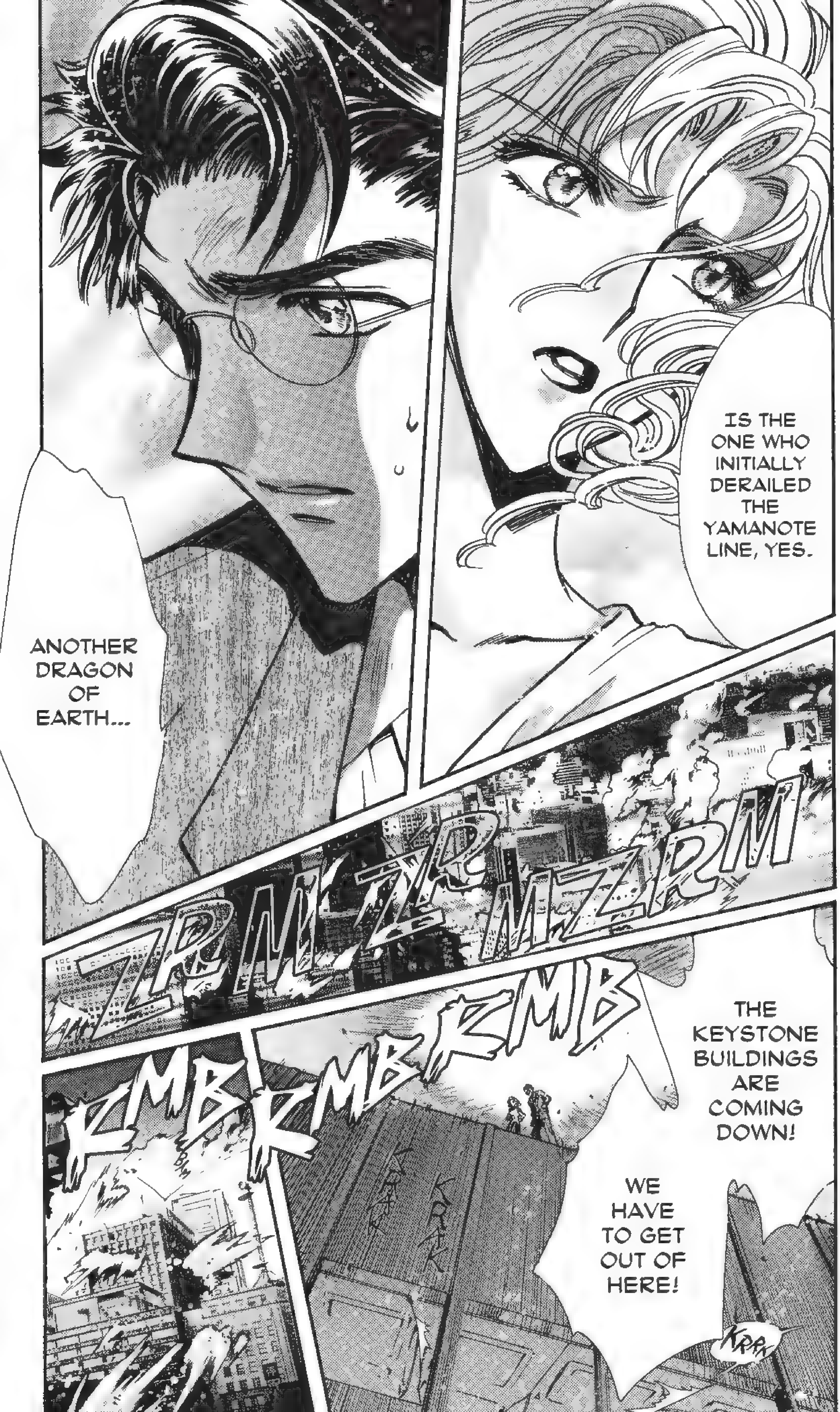

THAT'S ---
HWOO O
R
RMBRMB
RMB

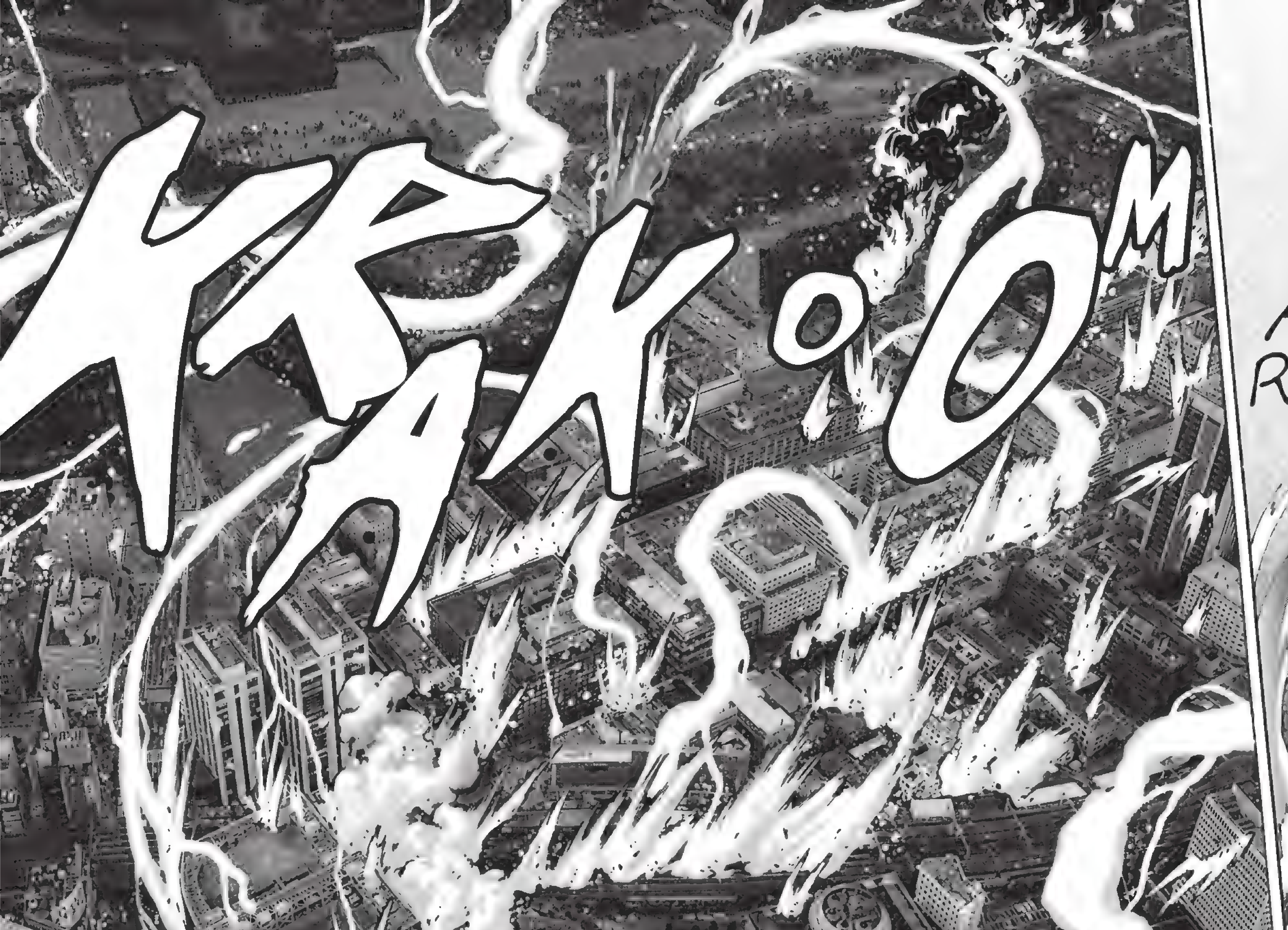

VWSH


TMp
KRAK
KRAK
WAIT !!
OH NO!
DOOOM
QRRRMMMM
BL

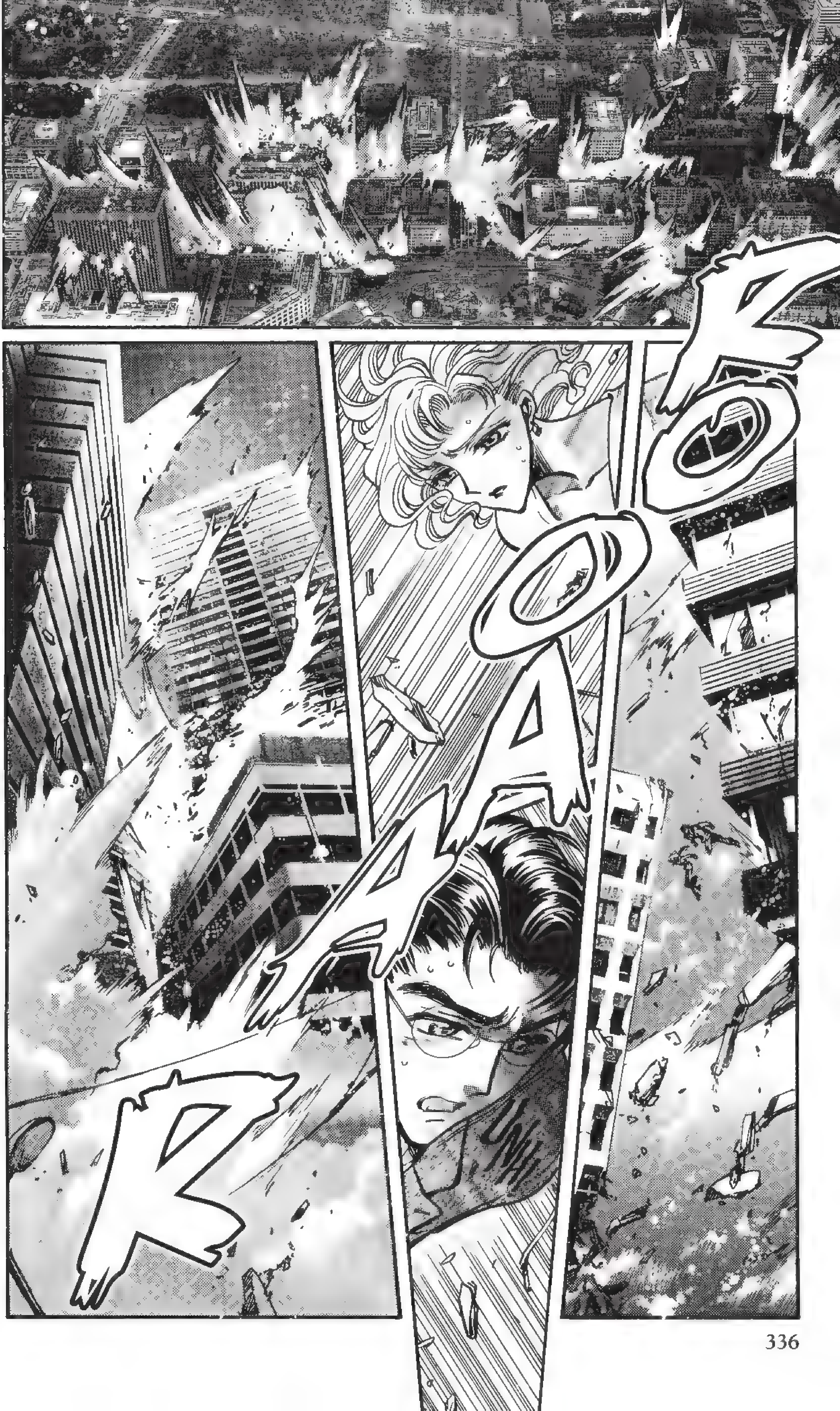

OOOm
KOAAK

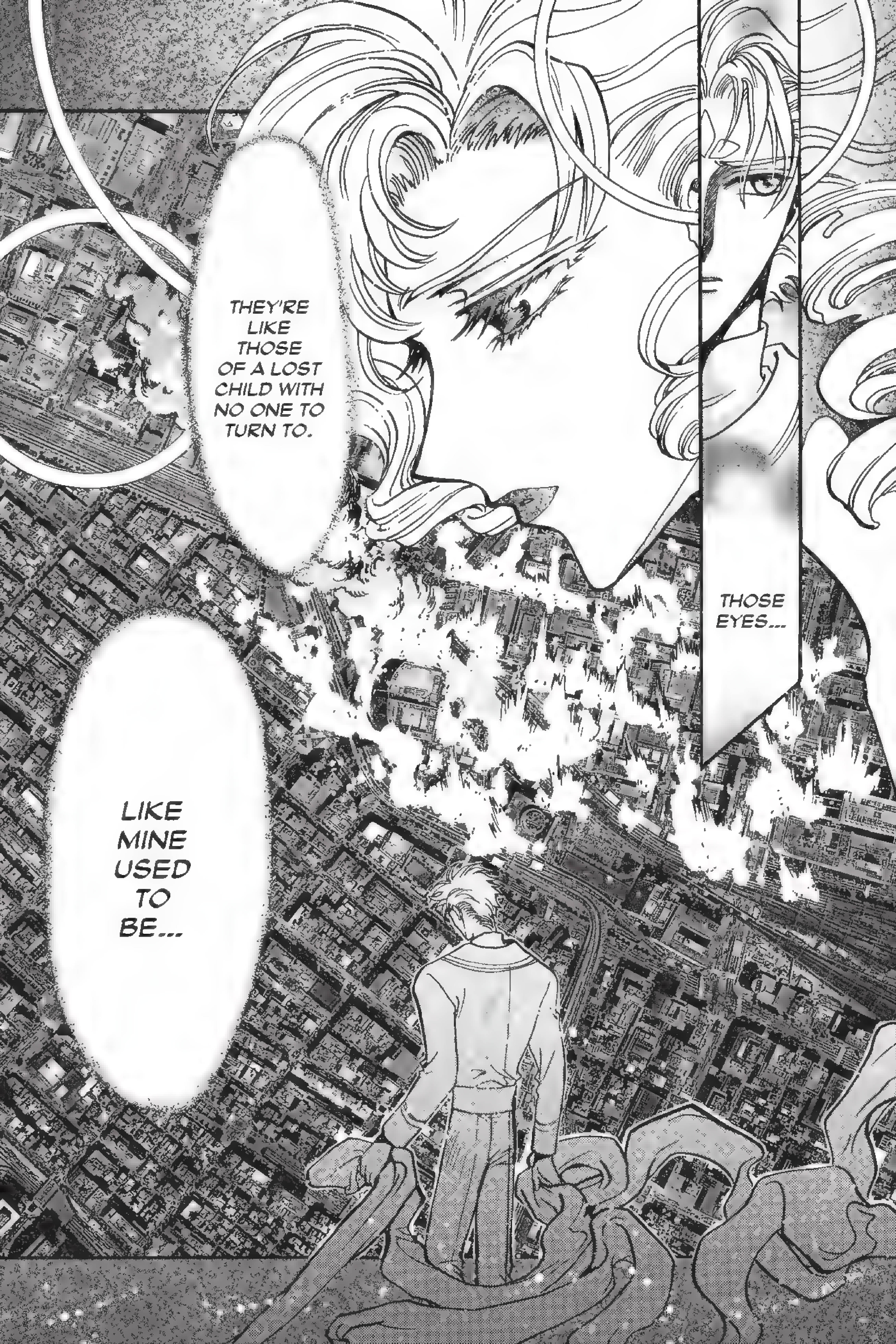

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HOOOO
OH!
Y-YES. THANK YOU.
ZASH
ZASH
I... I... I'M SO SORRY!
ACK!
HMM...
THAT'S A NOVEL RESPONSE.
HUH?!
IN MY LINE OF WORK, WHEN MEN TOUCH ME THEY USUALLY DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR IT.
THAT PERSON WE SAW...

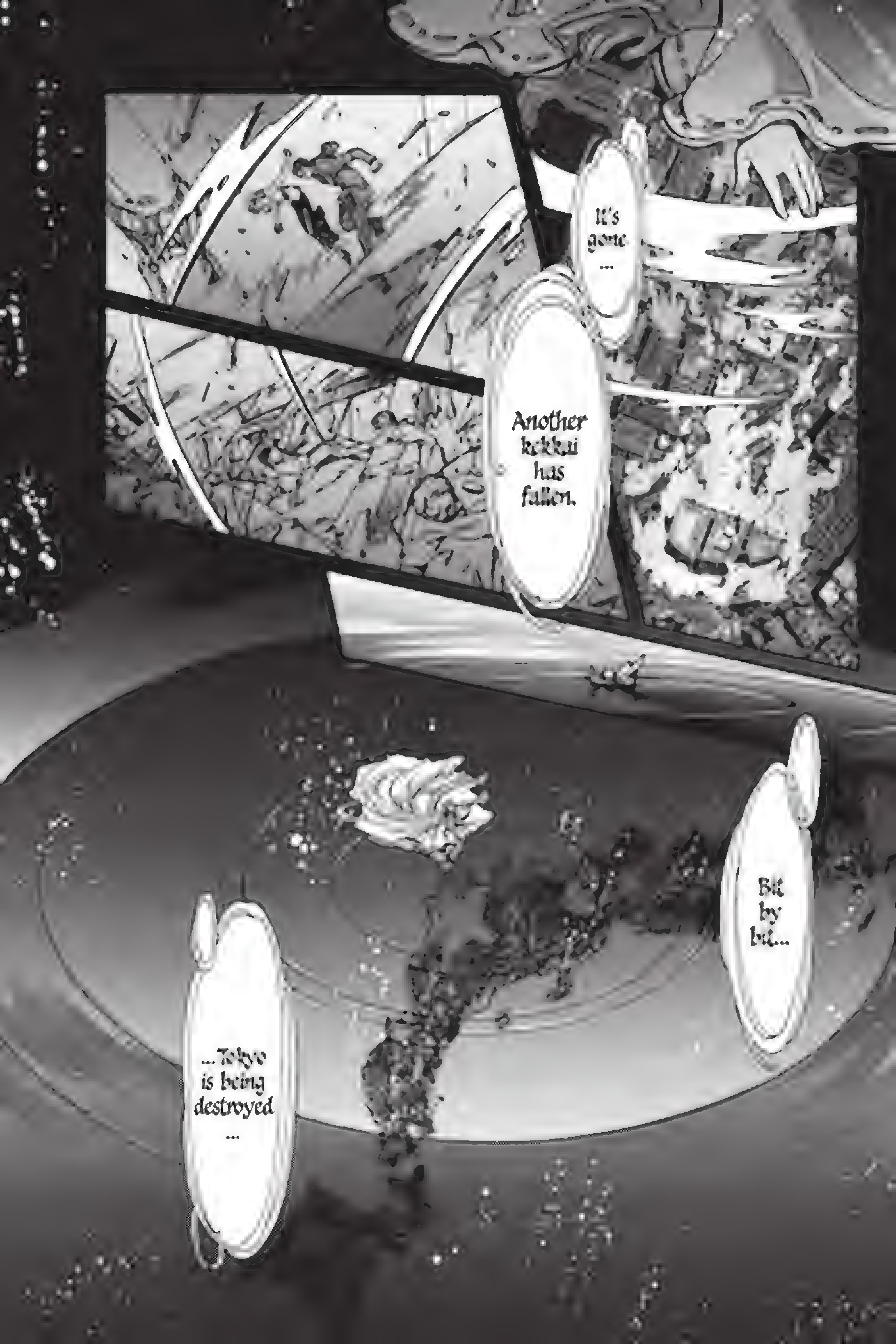

IS THE ONE WHO INITIALLY DERAILED THE YAMANOTE LINE, YES.
ANOTHER DRAGON OF EARTH...
ZRMZRMZRM
RMB RMB RMB
THE KEYSTONE BUILDINGS ARE COMING DOWN!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
KRAK
KRAK
KRRK

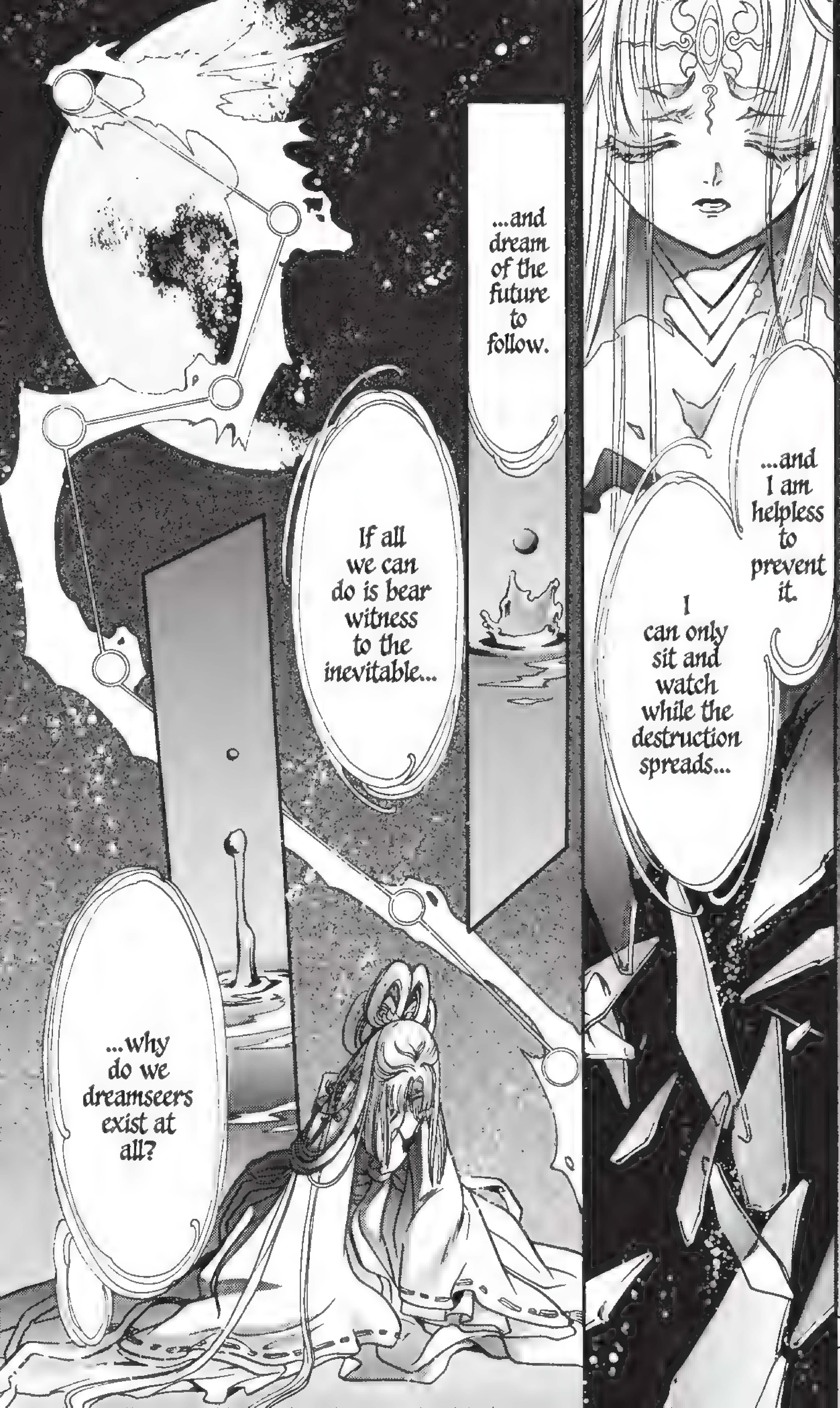

KRAKOOOM

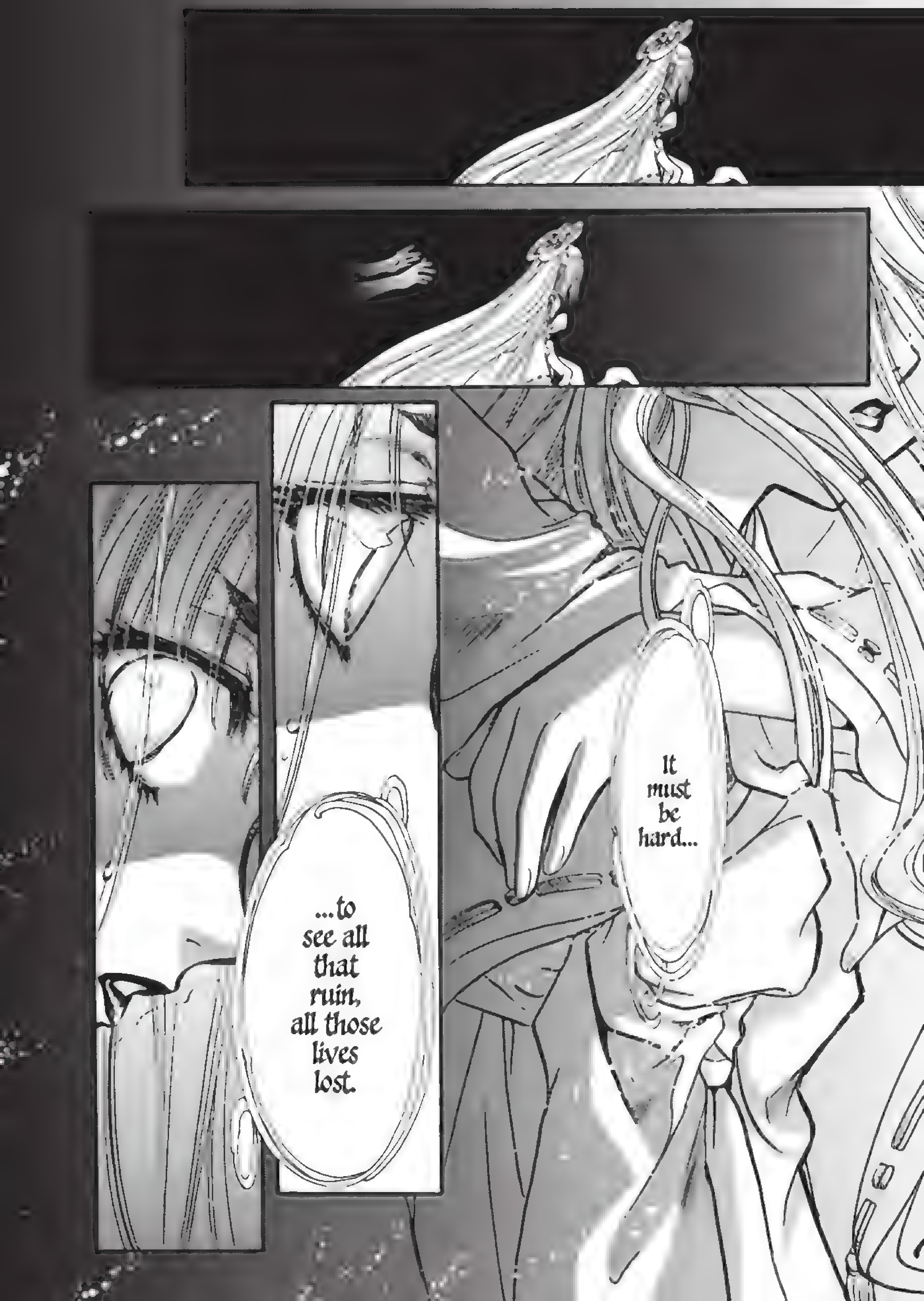
RAOOR

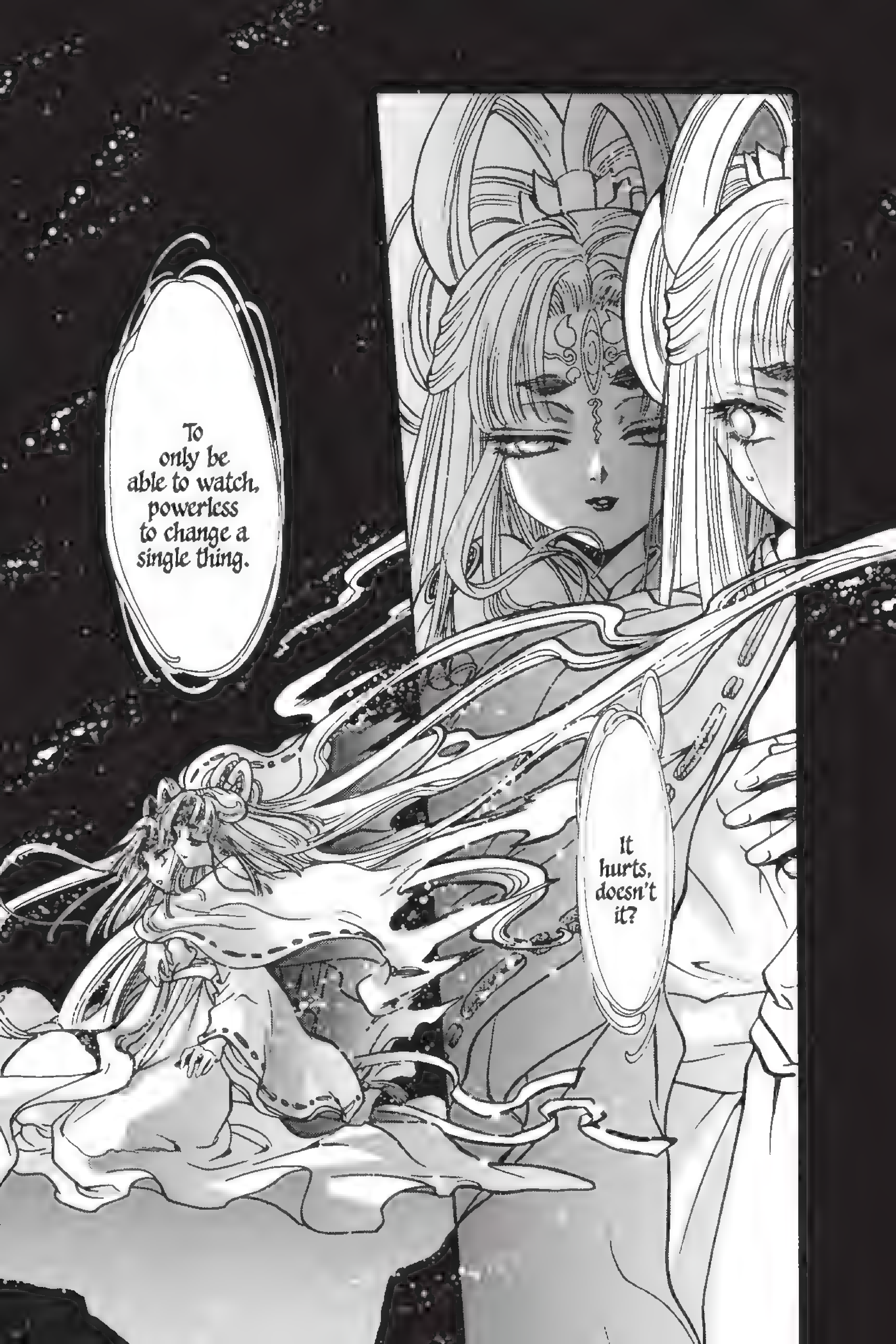

KRAOOK

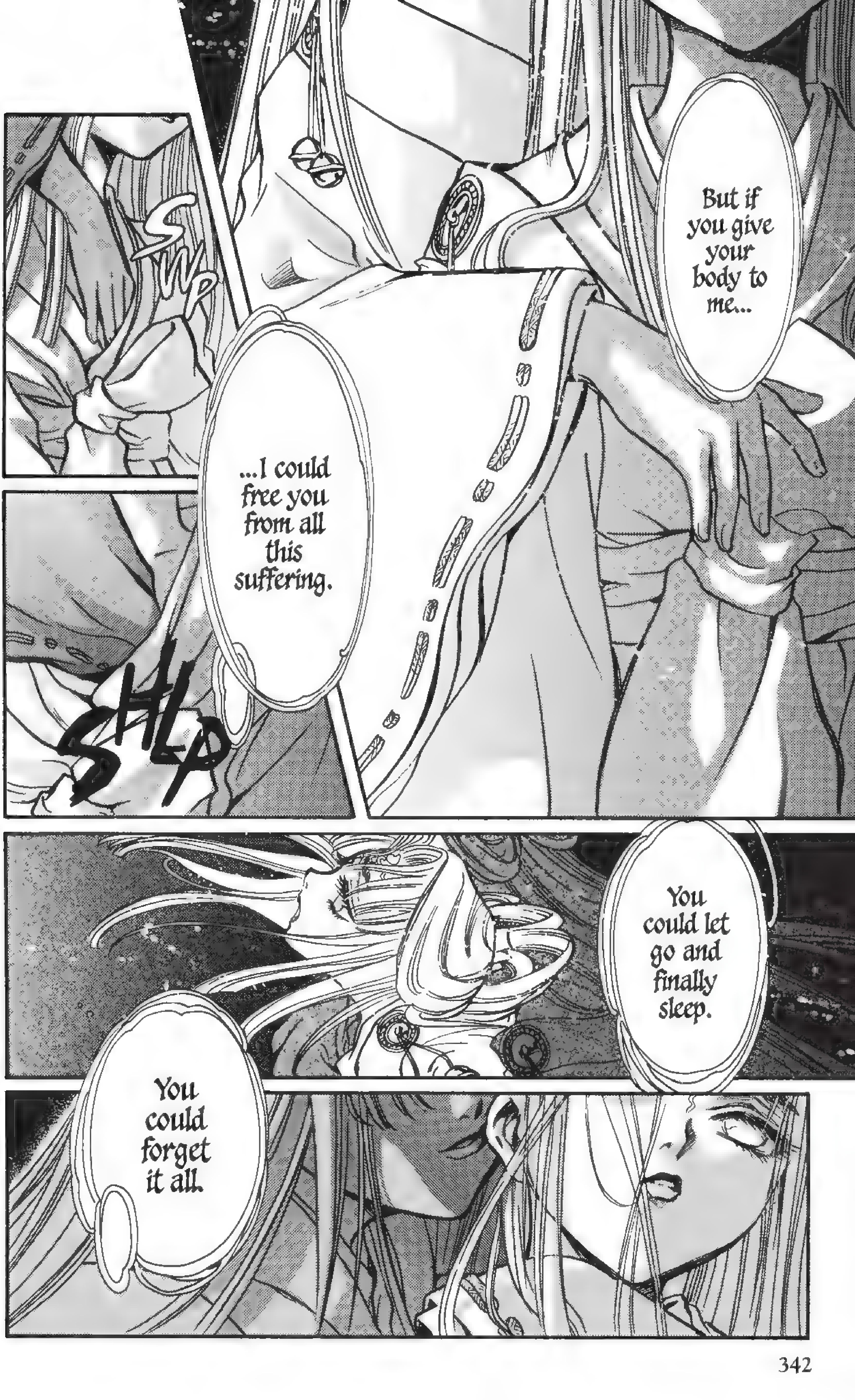

THOSE EYES...
THEY'RE LIKE THOSE OF A LOST CHILD WITH NO ONE TO TURN TO.
LIKE MINE USED TO BE...

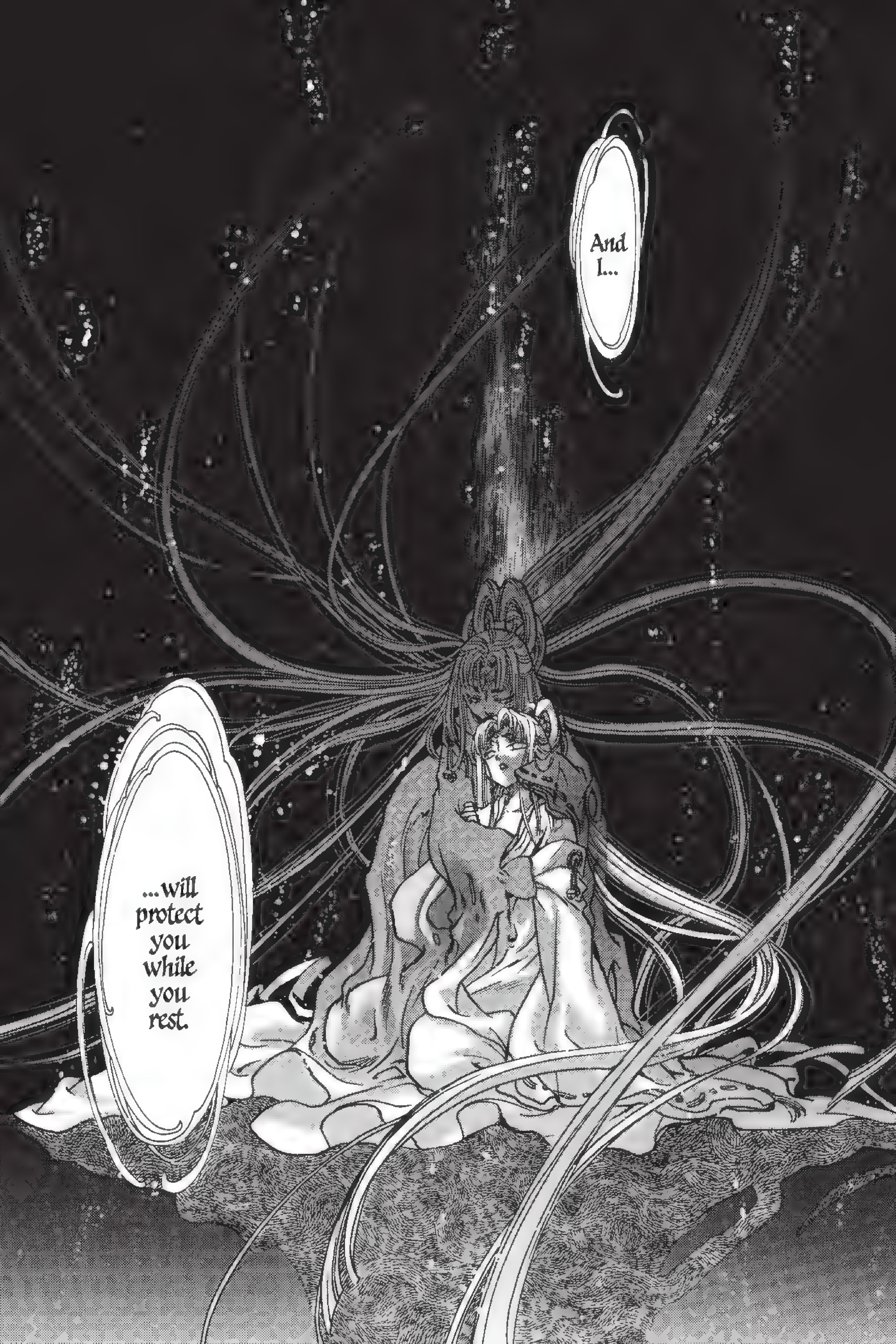

It's gone...
Another kekkai has fallen.
Bit by bit...
...Tokyo is being destroyed...

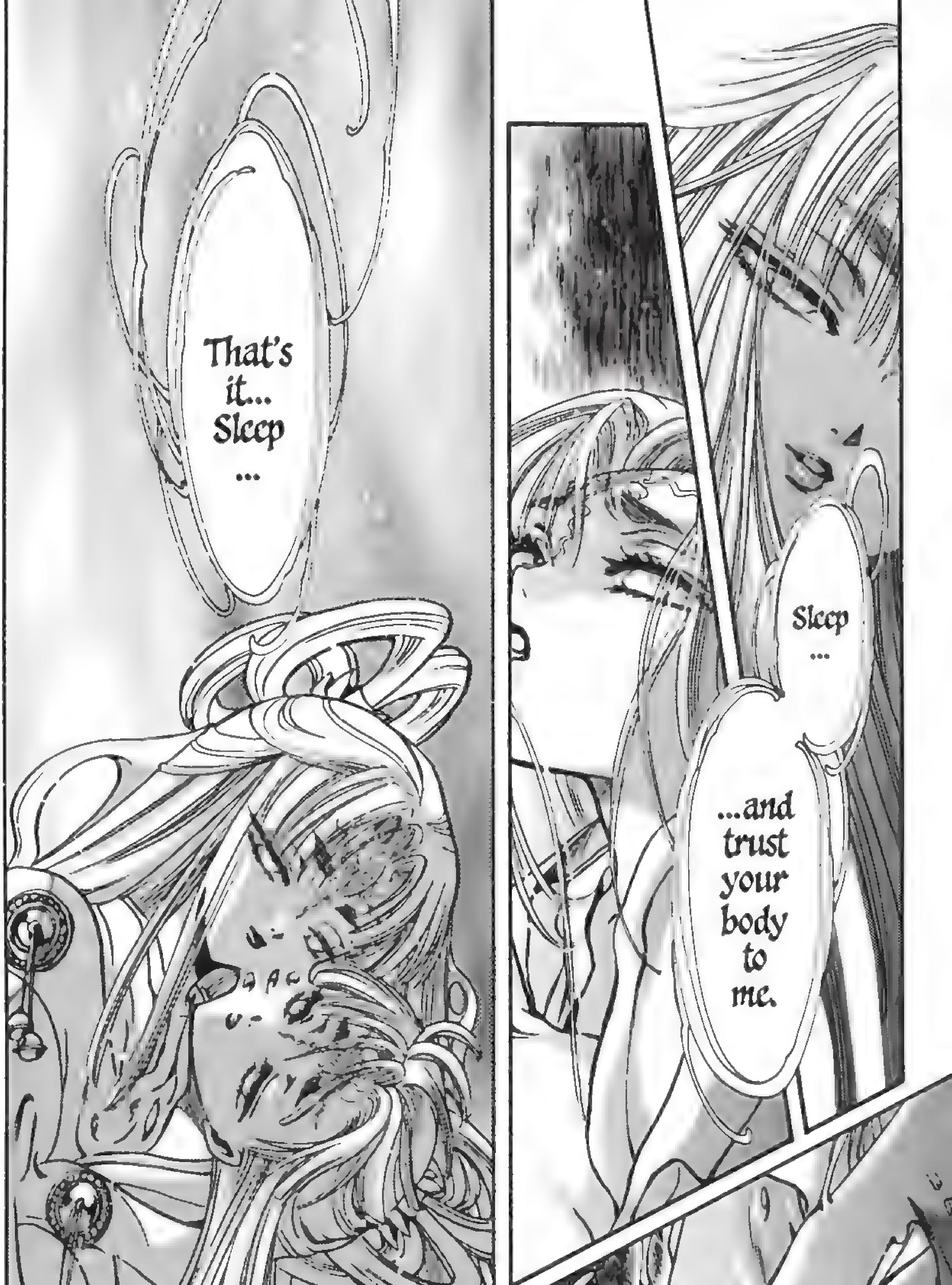

...and dream of the future to follow.
I can only sit and watch while the destruction spreads...
...and I am helpless to prevent it.
If all we can do is bear witness to the inevitable...
...why do we dreamseers exist at all?

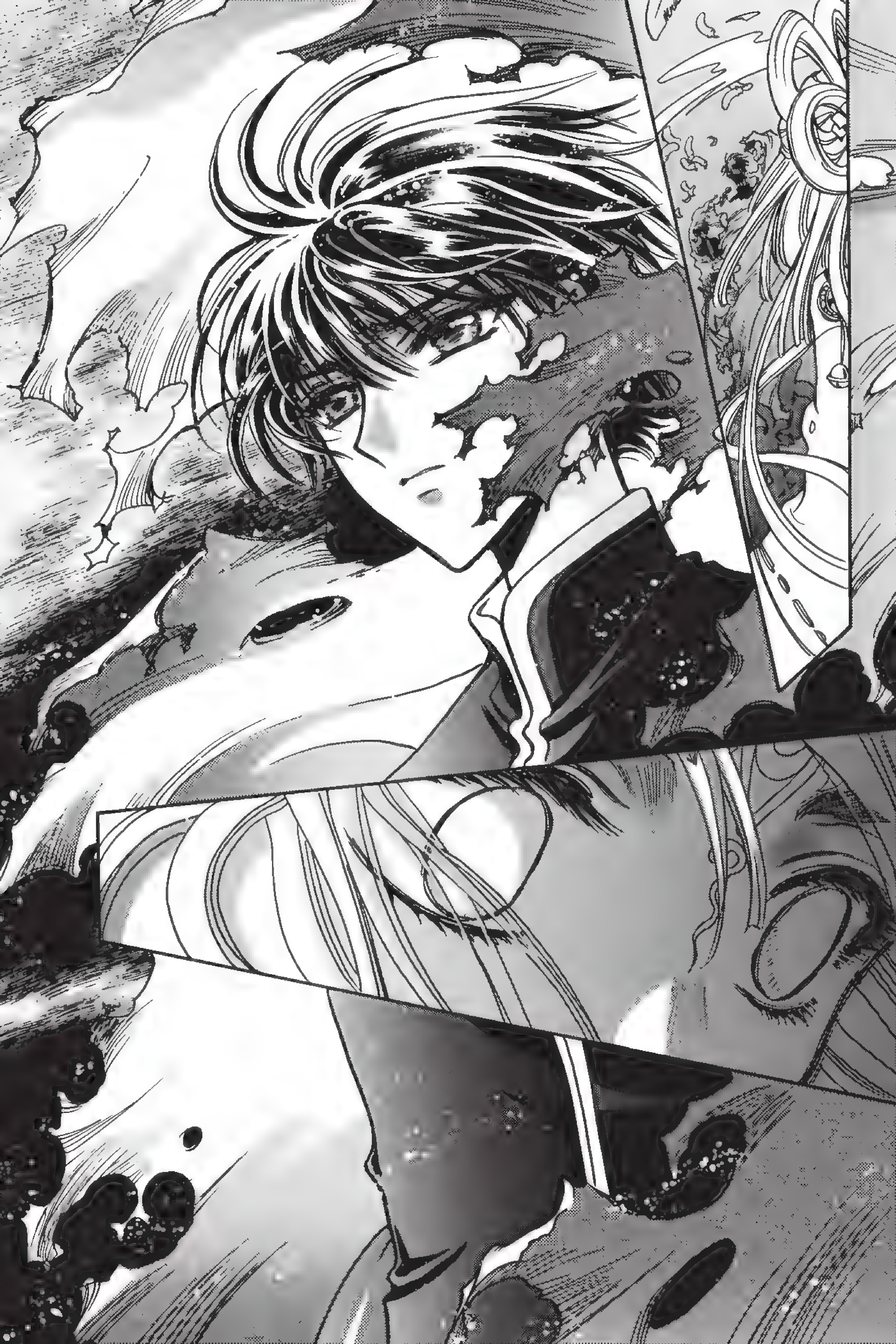

It must be hard...
...to see all that ruin, all those lives lost.

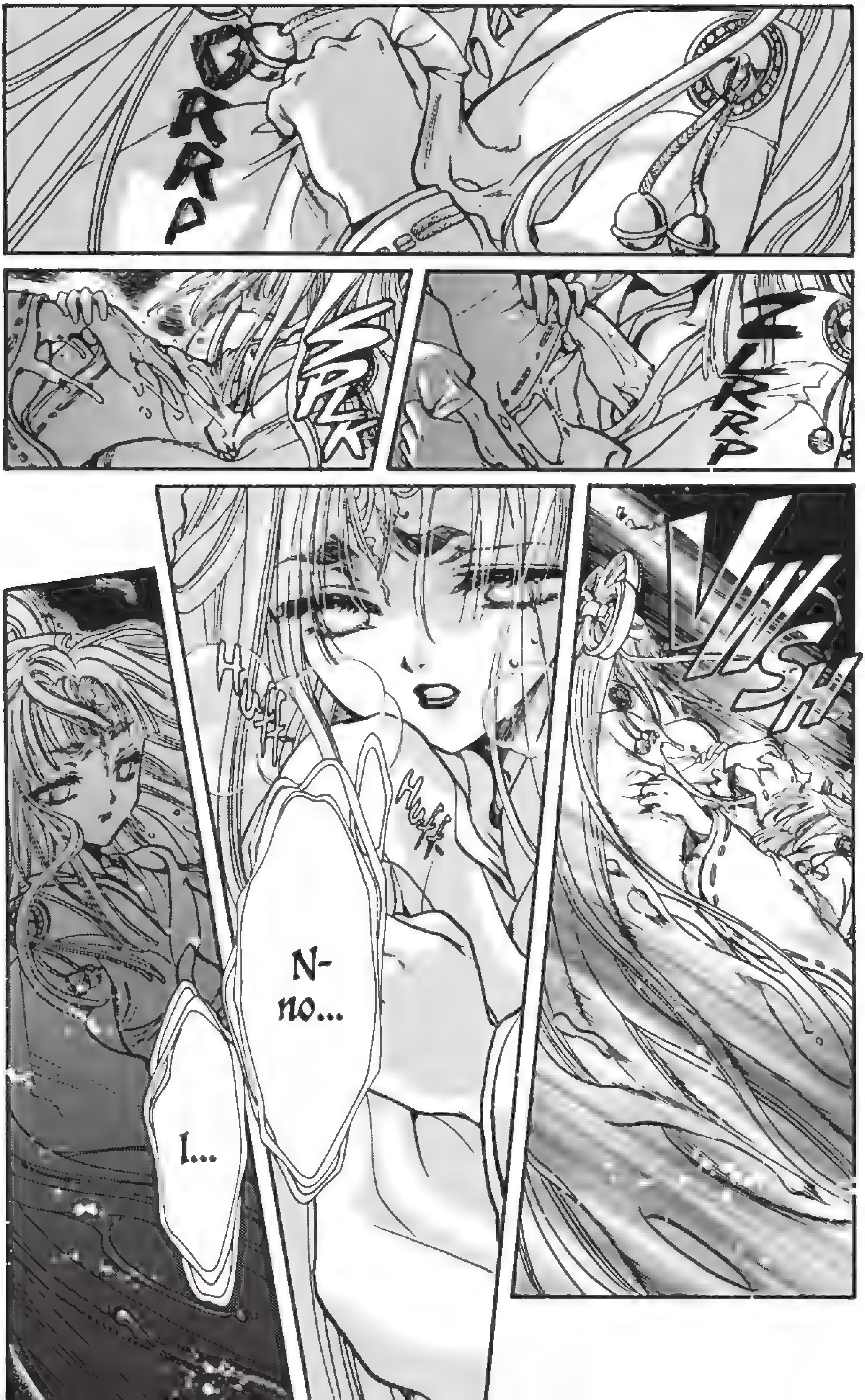

To only be able to watch, powerless to change a single thing.
It hurts, doesn't it?

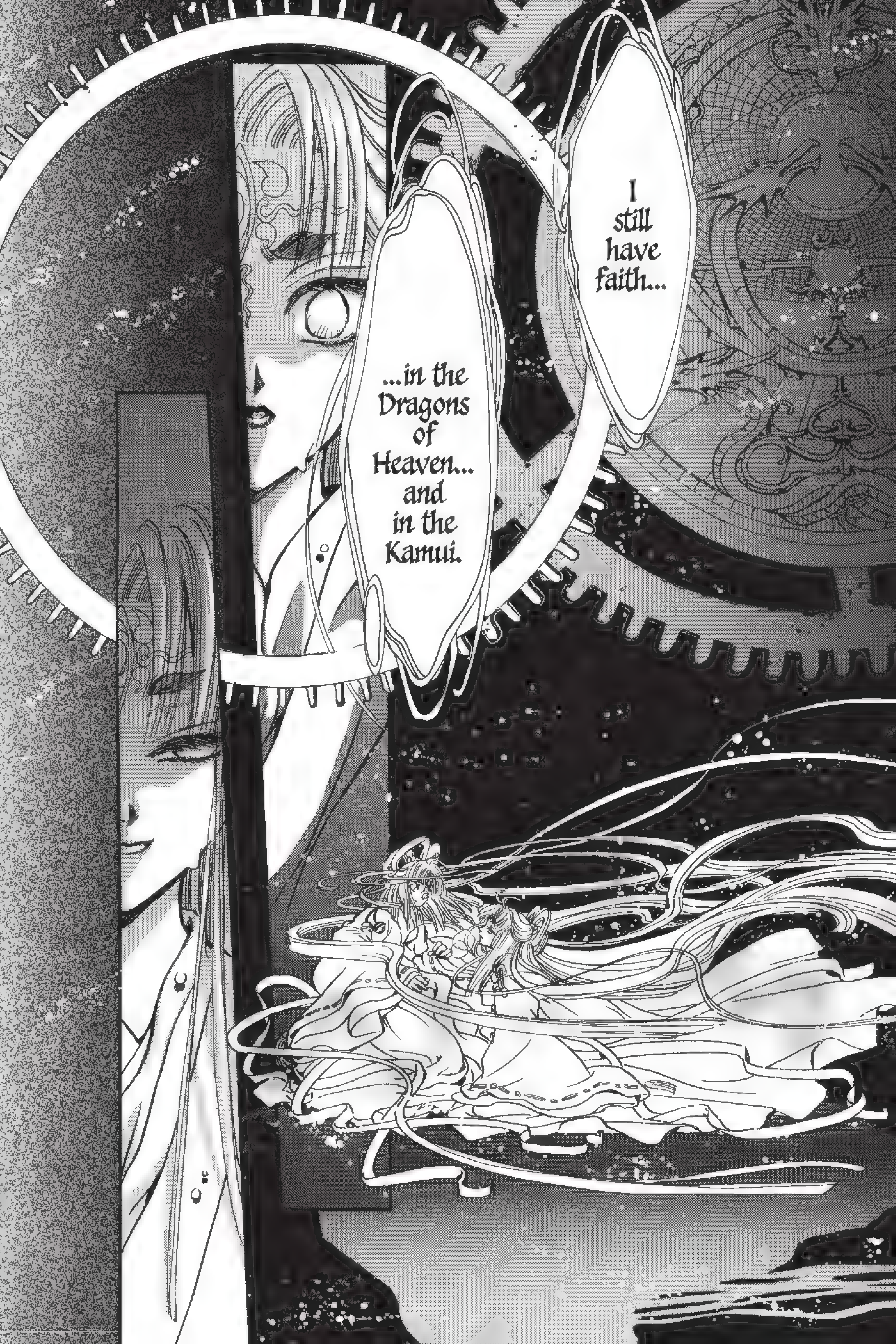

But if you give your body to me...
...I could free you from all this suffering.
SWP
SHLP
You could let go and finally sleep.
You could forget it all.

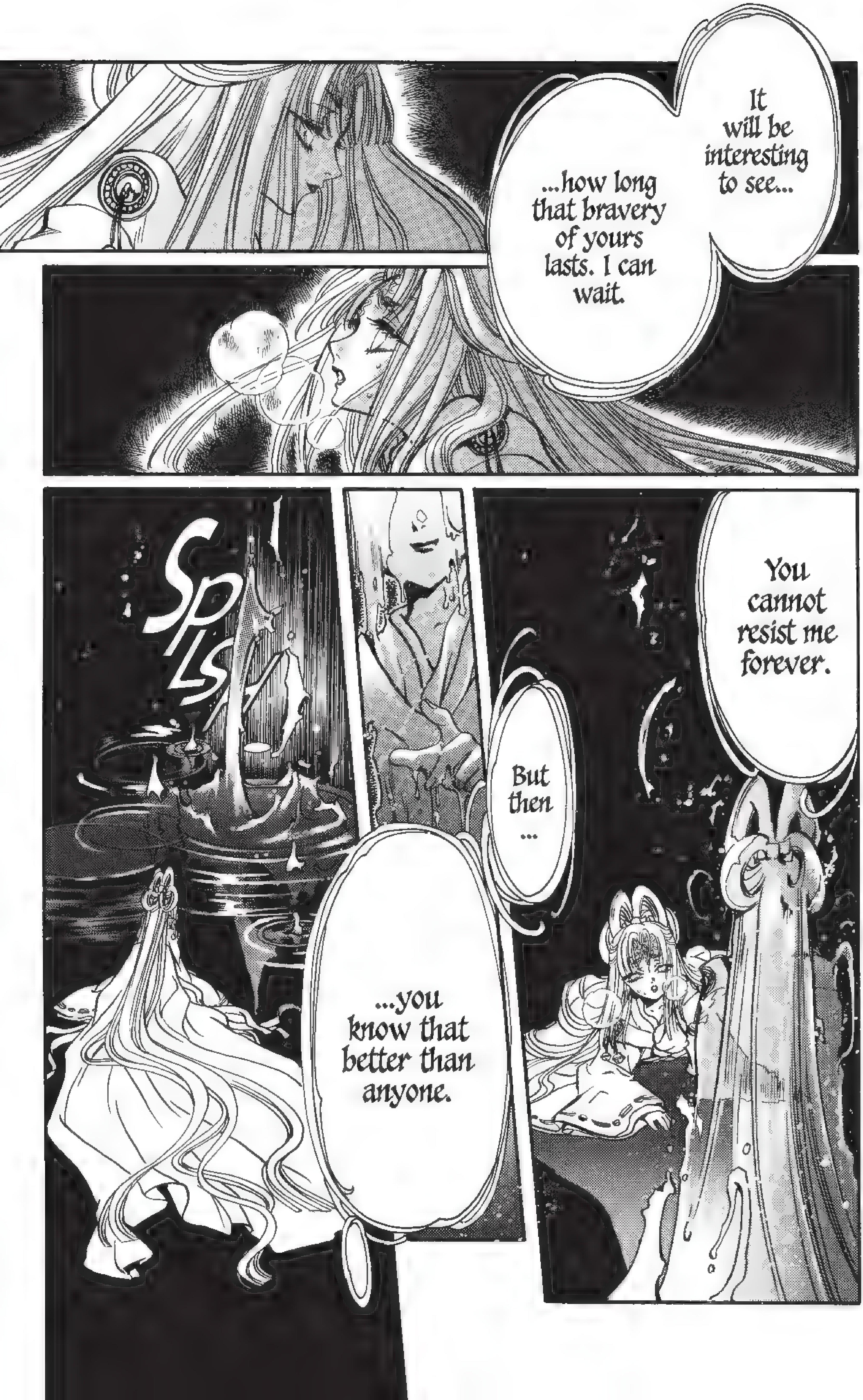

And I...
...will protect you while you rest.

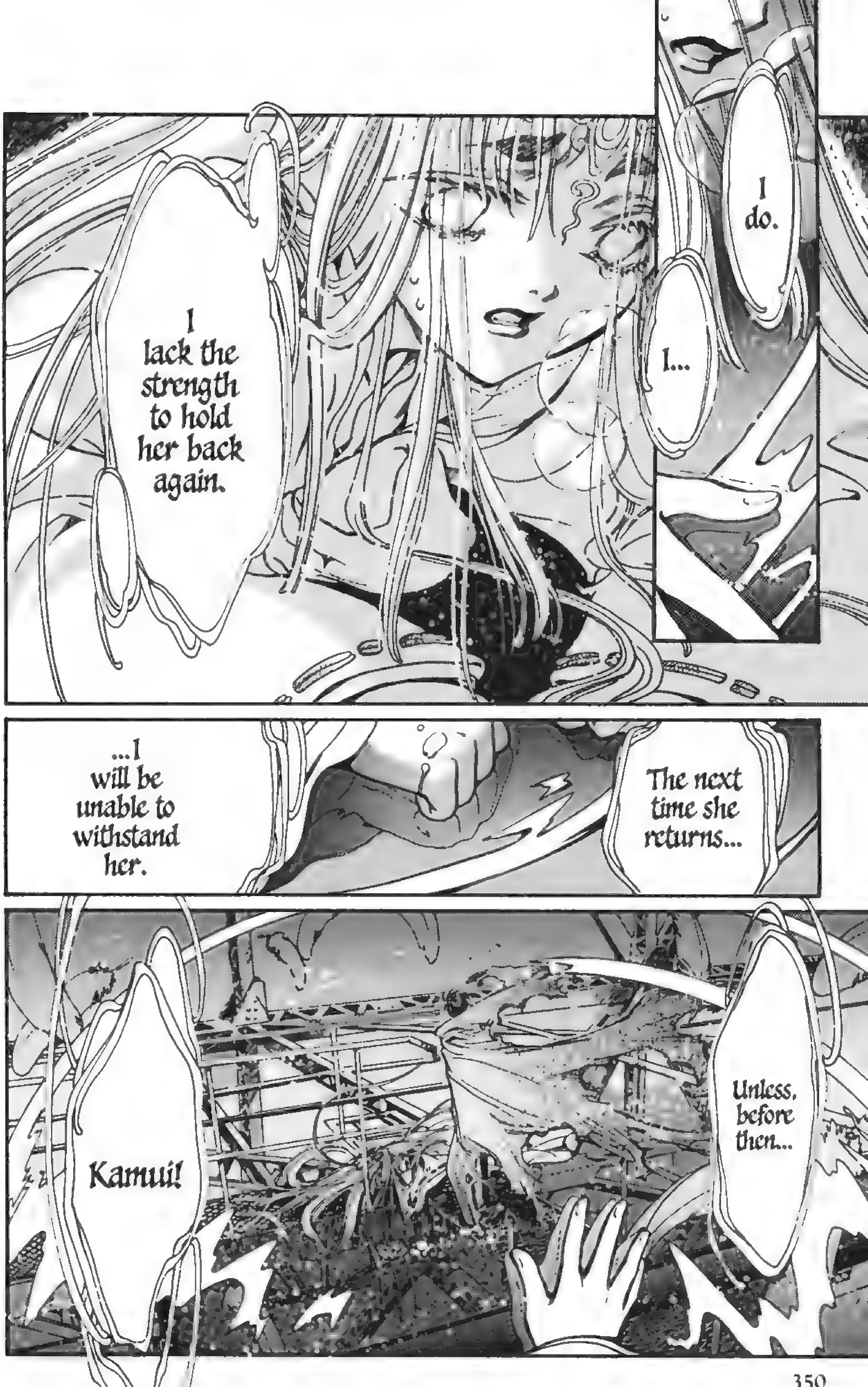

Sleep ...
...and trust your body to me.
SHLUK
That's it... Sleep ...

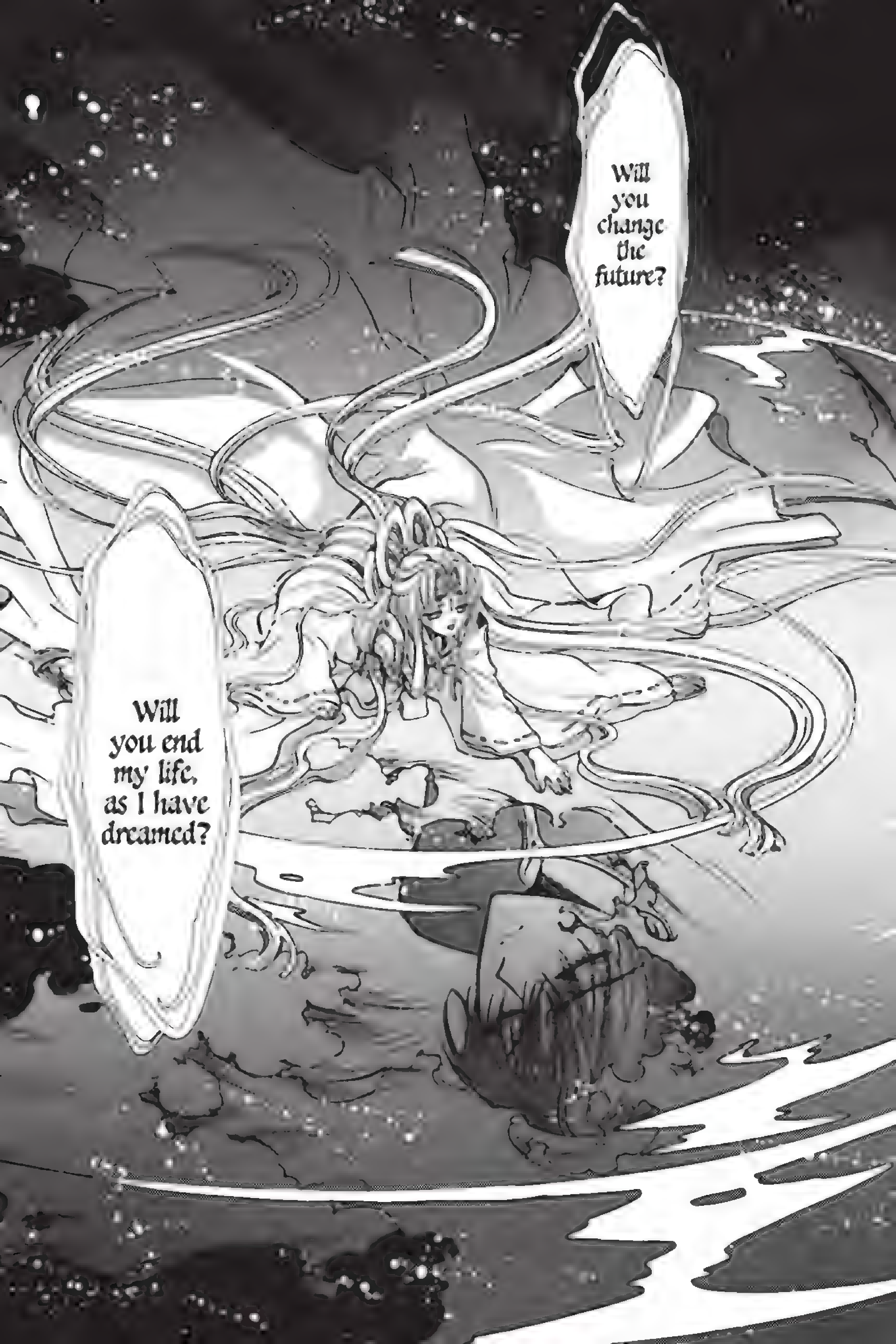


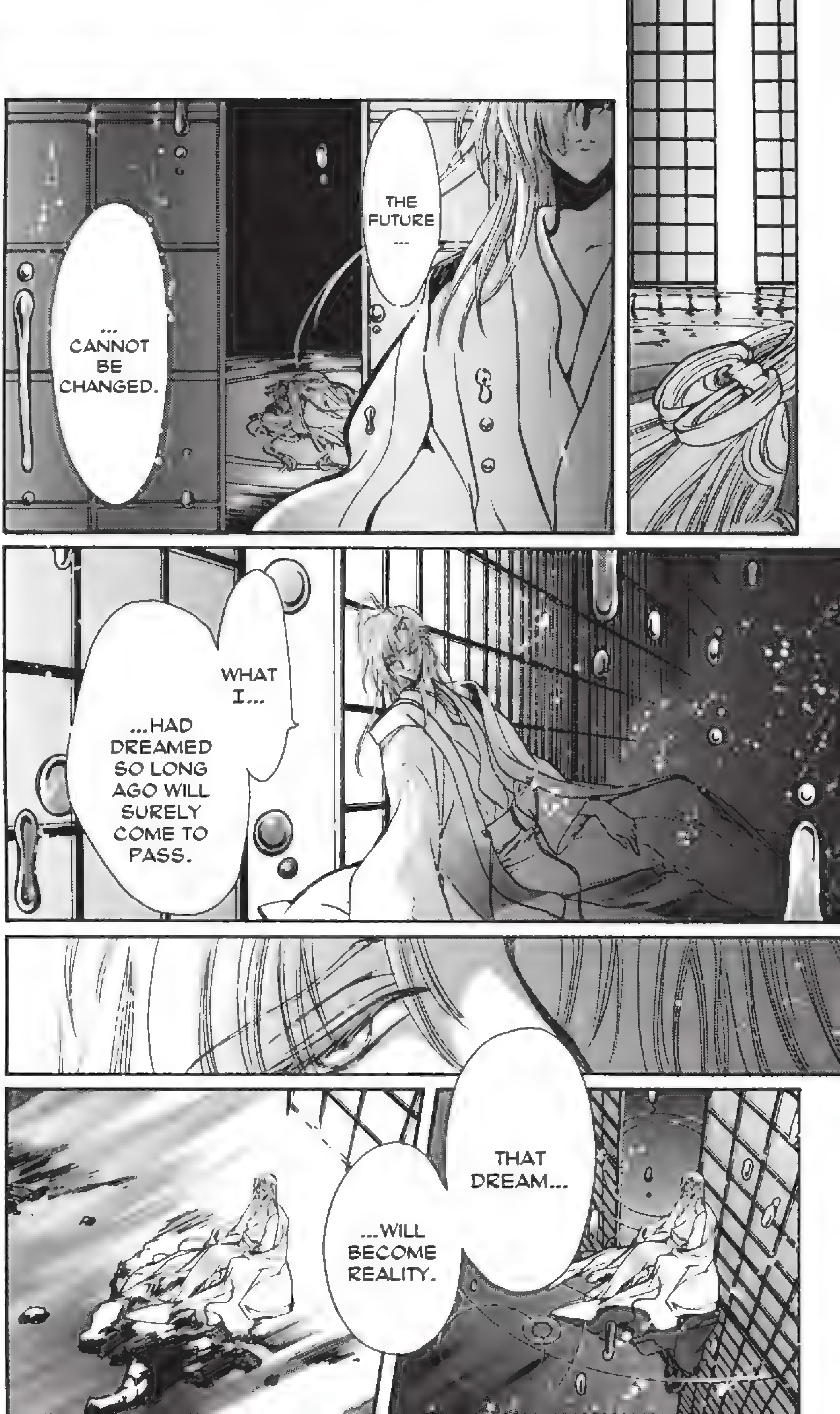

GRRP
ZLRRP
SPLK
VWISH
Huff
Huff
N-no...
I...

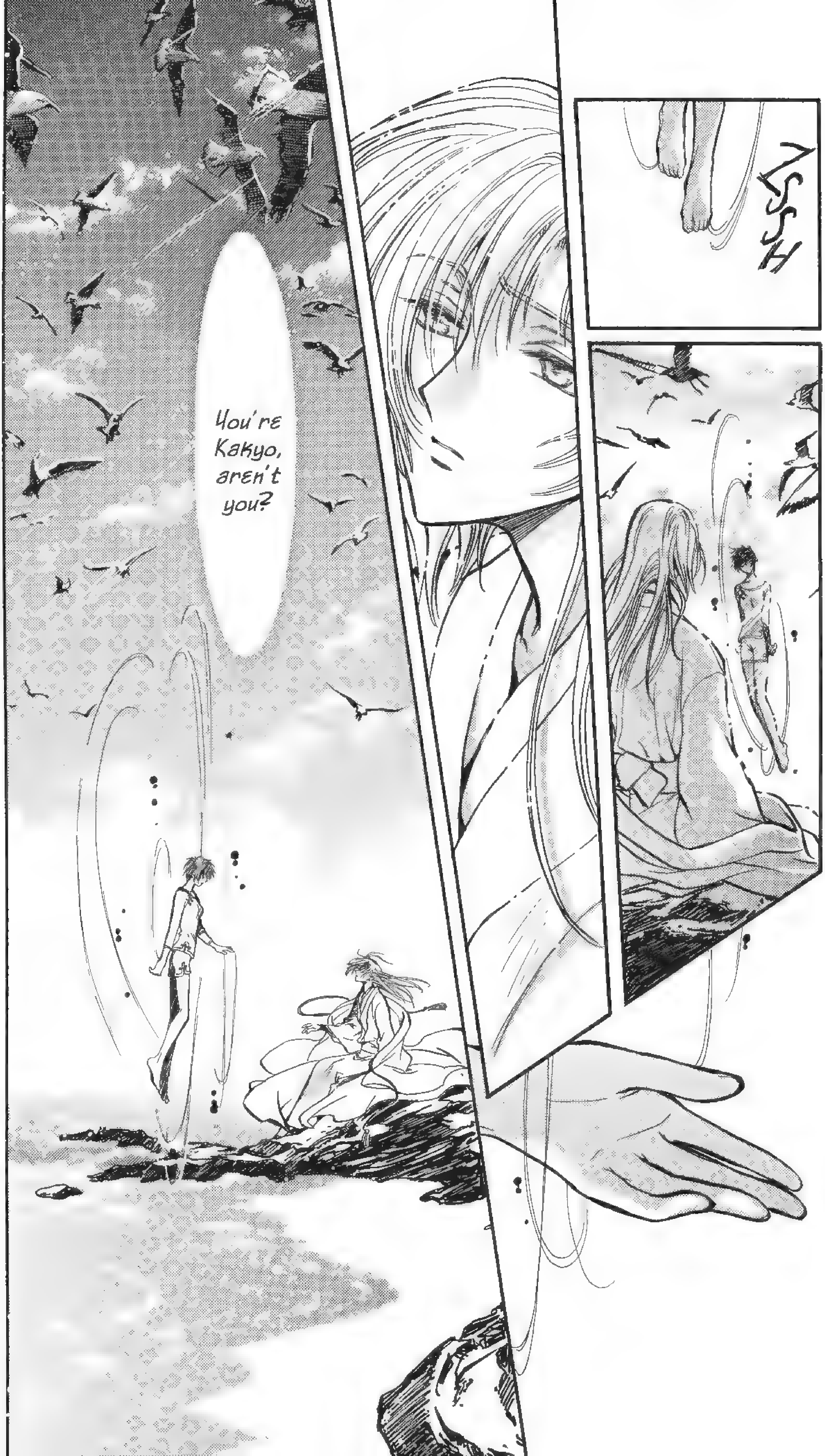

I still have faith...
...in the Dragons of Heaven... and in the Kamui.

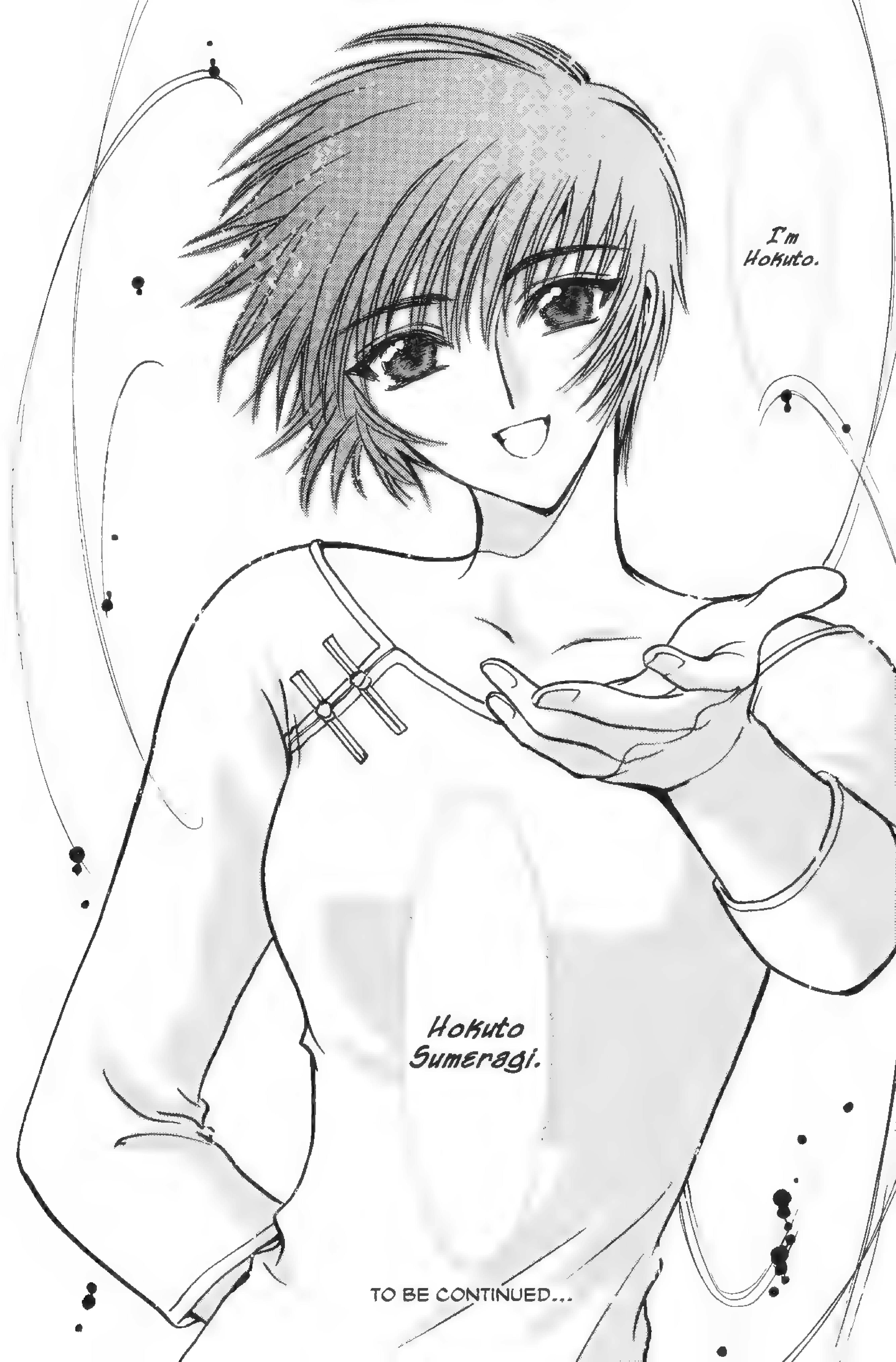

It will be interesting to see...
...how long that bravery of yours lasts. I can wait.
You cannot resist me forever.
But then...
...you know that better than anyone.
SPLSH


I do.
I...
I lack the strength to hold her back again.
The next time she returns...
...I will be unable to withstand her.
Unless, before then...
Kamui!


Will you change the future?
Will you end my life, as I have dreamed?


THE FUTURE...
...CANNOT BE CHANGED.
WHAT I...
...HAD DREAMED SO LONG AGO WILL SURELY COME TO PASS.
THAT DREAM...
...WILL BECOME REALITY.


ZSSH
You're Kakyo, aren't you?

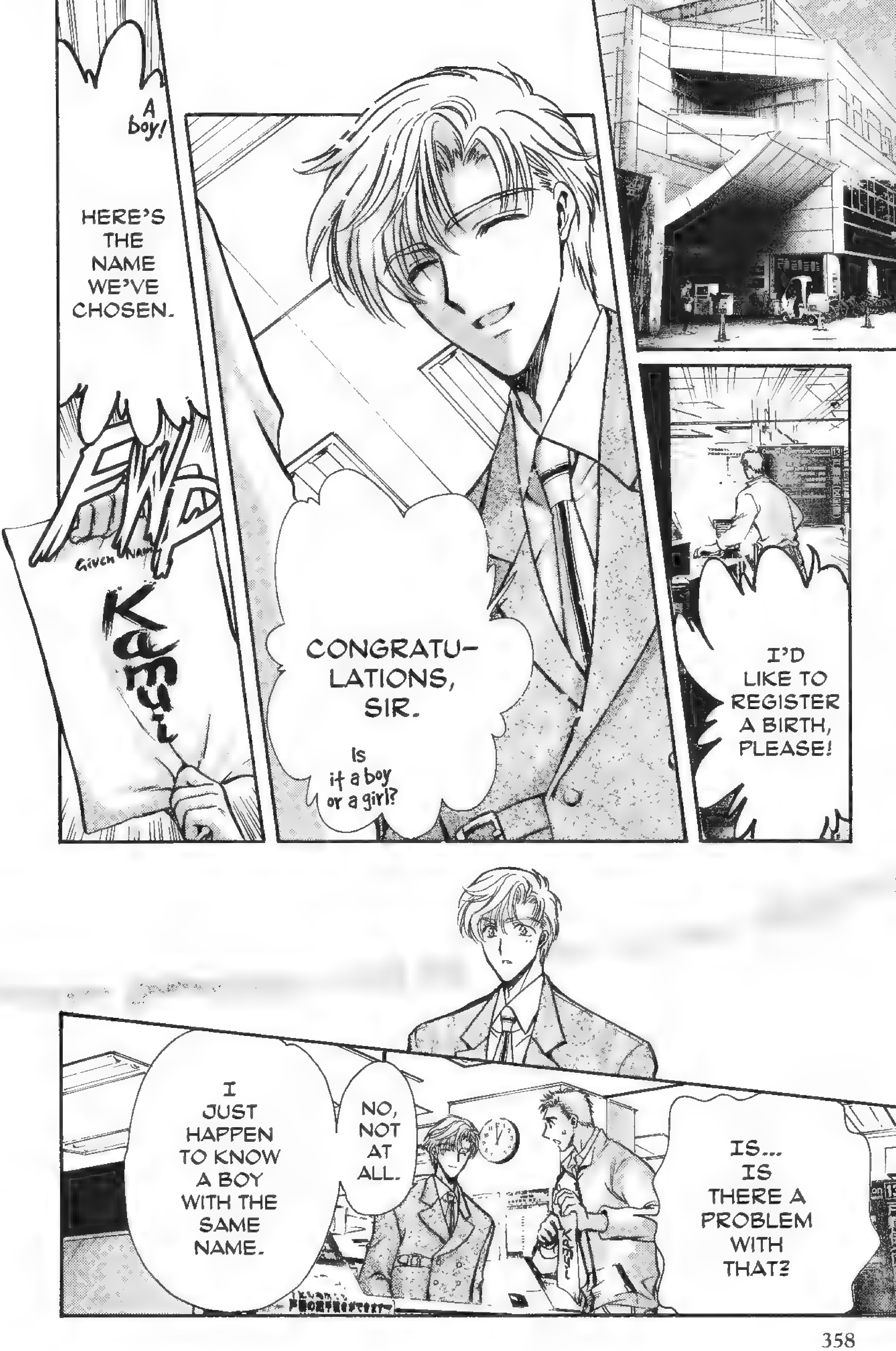

I'm Hokuto.
Hokuto Sumeragi.

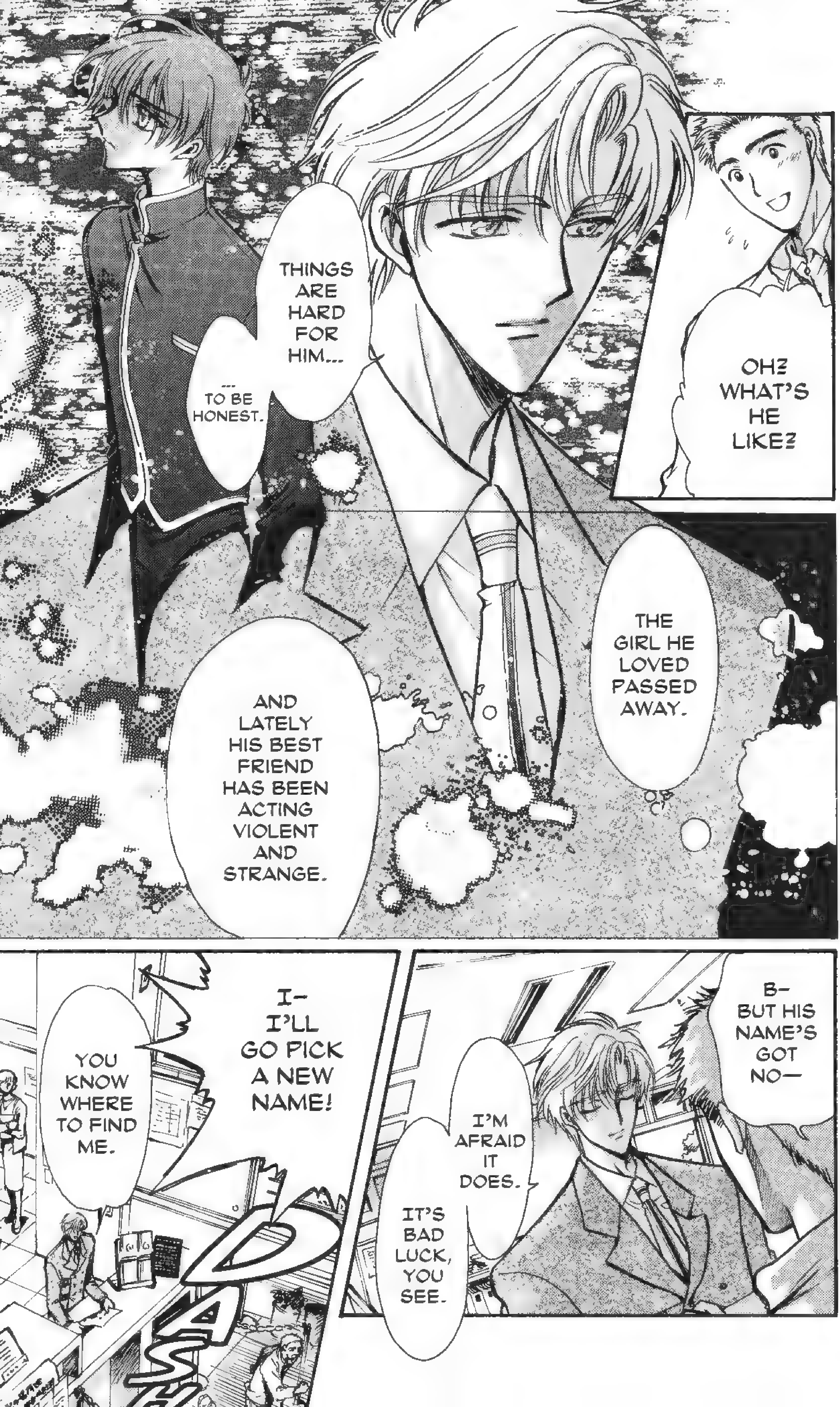
TO BE CONTINUED...

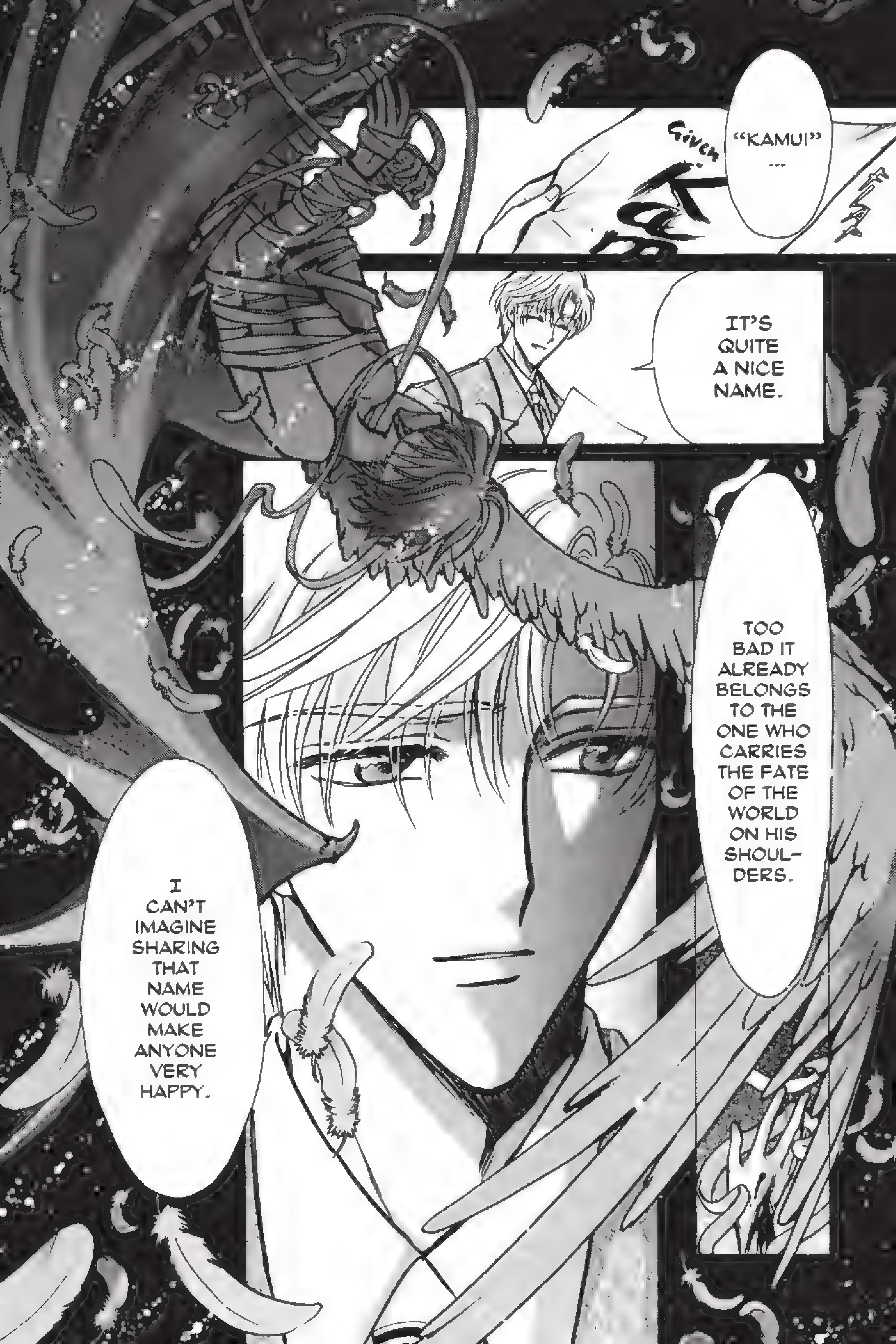
X

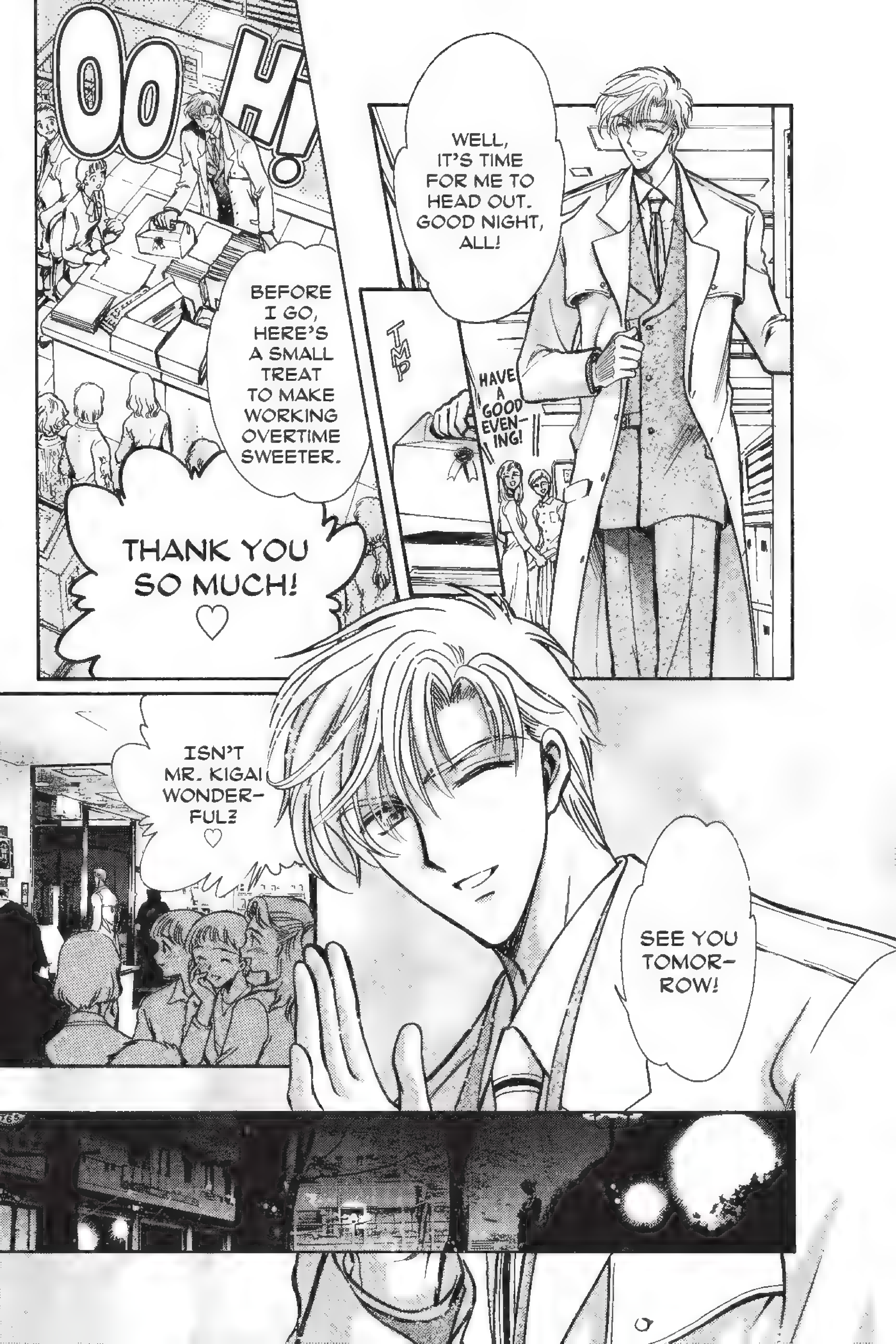
X

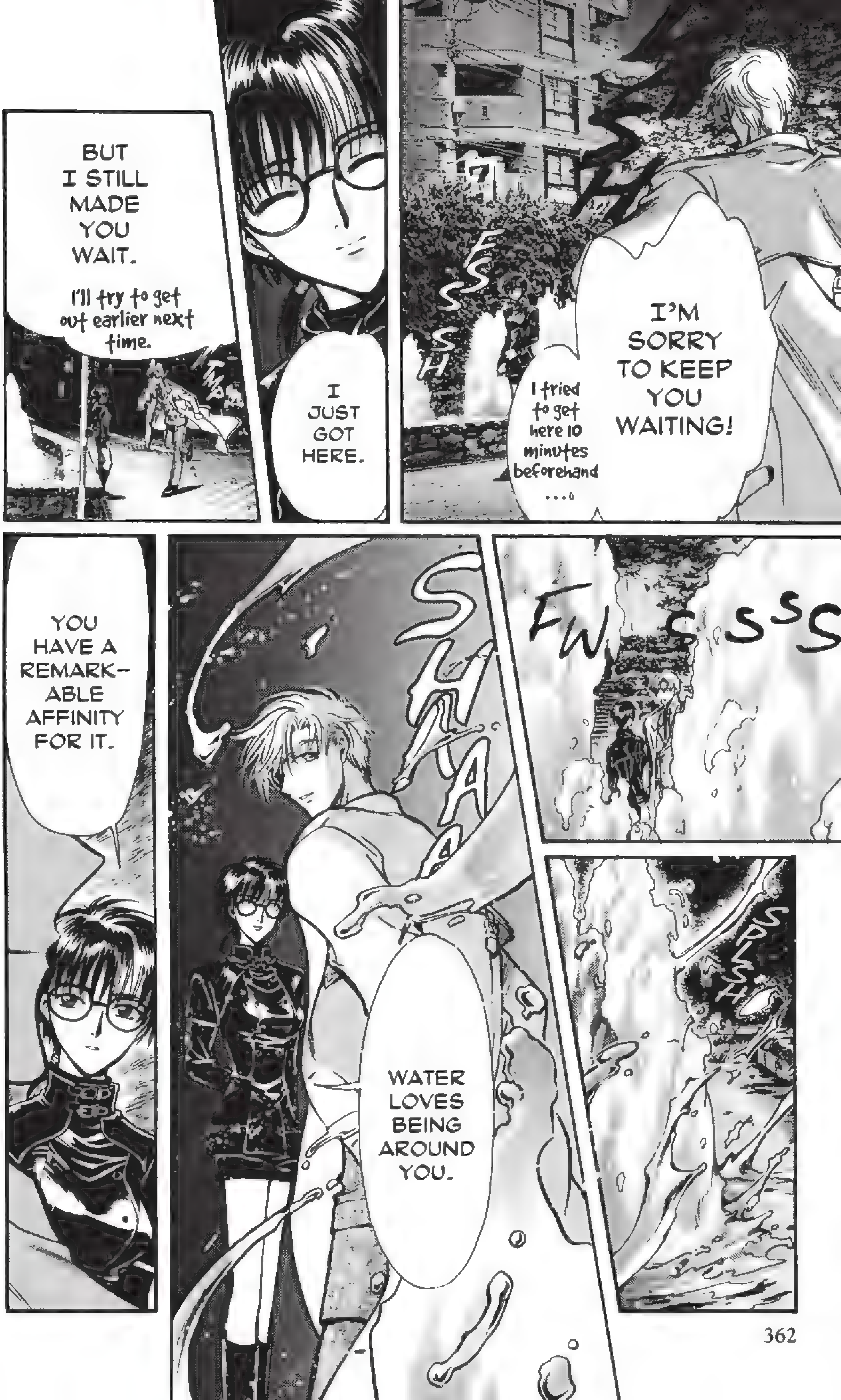
YUTO KIGAI

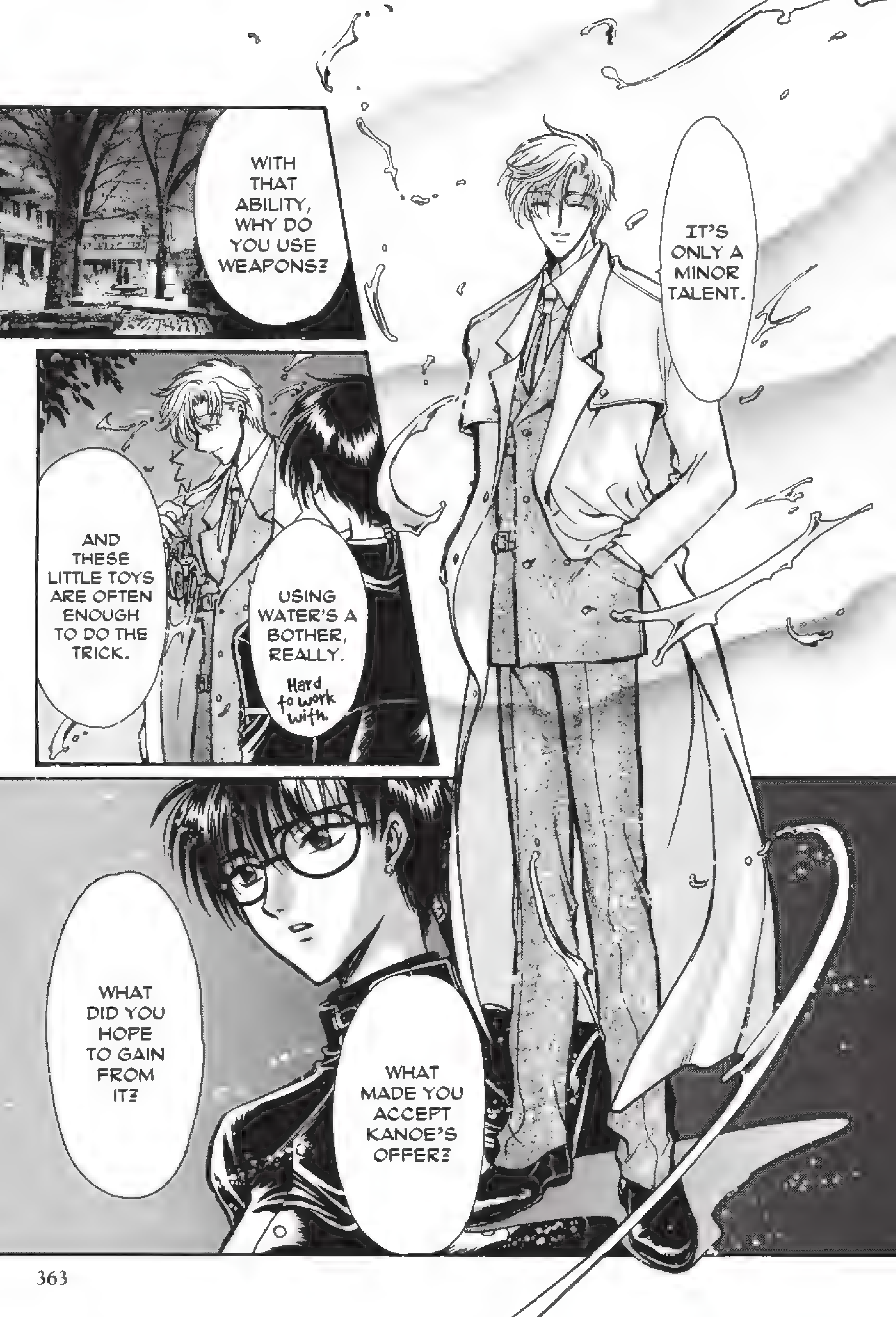

I'D LIKE TO REGISTER A BIRTH, PLEASE!
CONGRATULATIONS, SIR.
Is it a boy or a girl?
A boy!
HERE'S THE NAME WE'VE CHOSEN.
Given Name
Kamui
IS... IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
I JUST HAPPEN TO KNOW A BOY WITH THE SAME NAME.

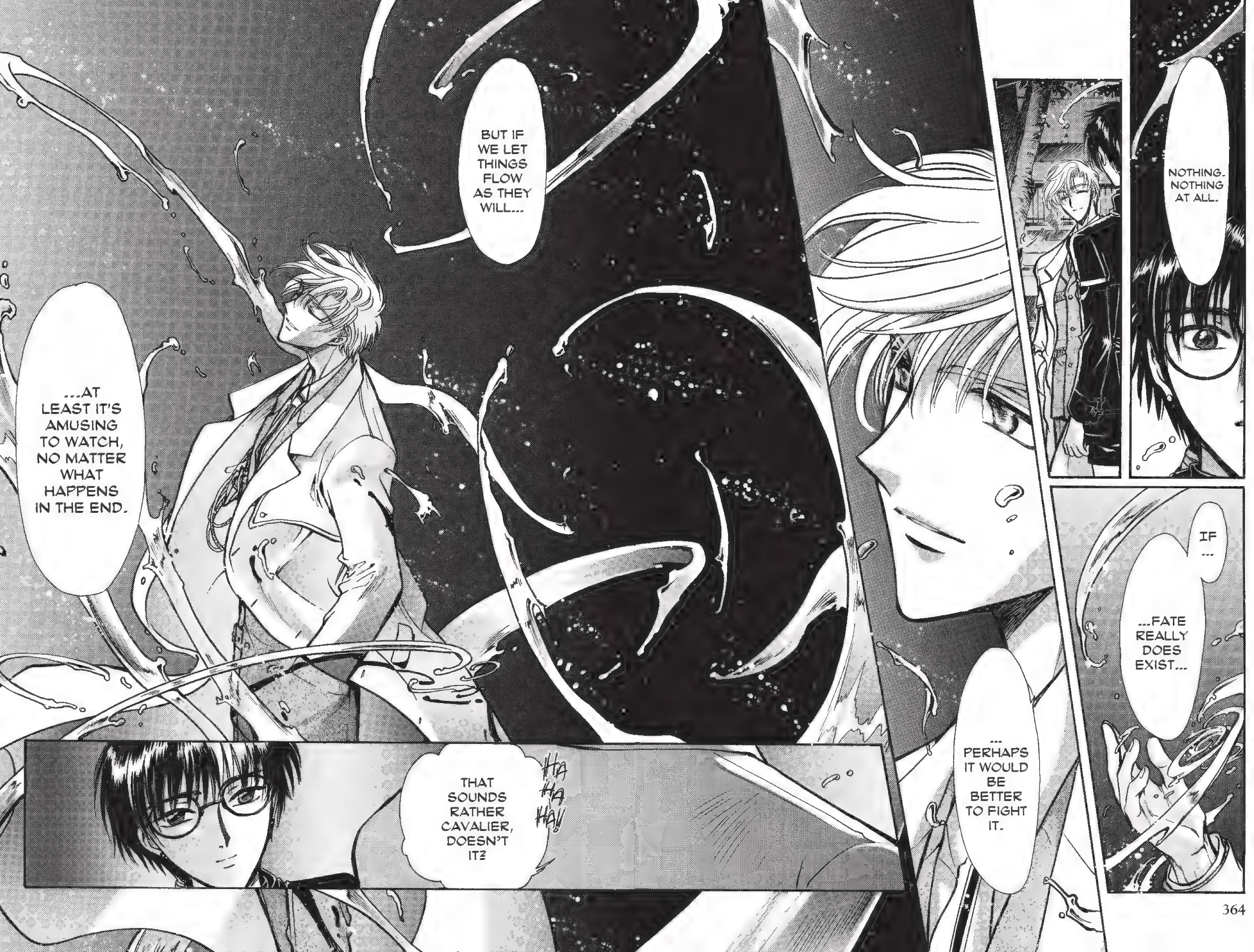

OH? WHAT'S HE LIKE?
THINGS ARE HARD FOR HIM...
...TO BE HONEST.
THE GIRL HE LOVED PASSED AWAY.
AND LATELY HIS BEST FRIEND HAS BEEN ACTING VIOLENT AND STRANGE.
B- BUT HIS NAME'S GOT NO—
I'M AFRAID IT DOES.
IT'S BAD LUCK, YOU SEE.
I- I'LL GO PICK A NEW NAME!
YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
DASH

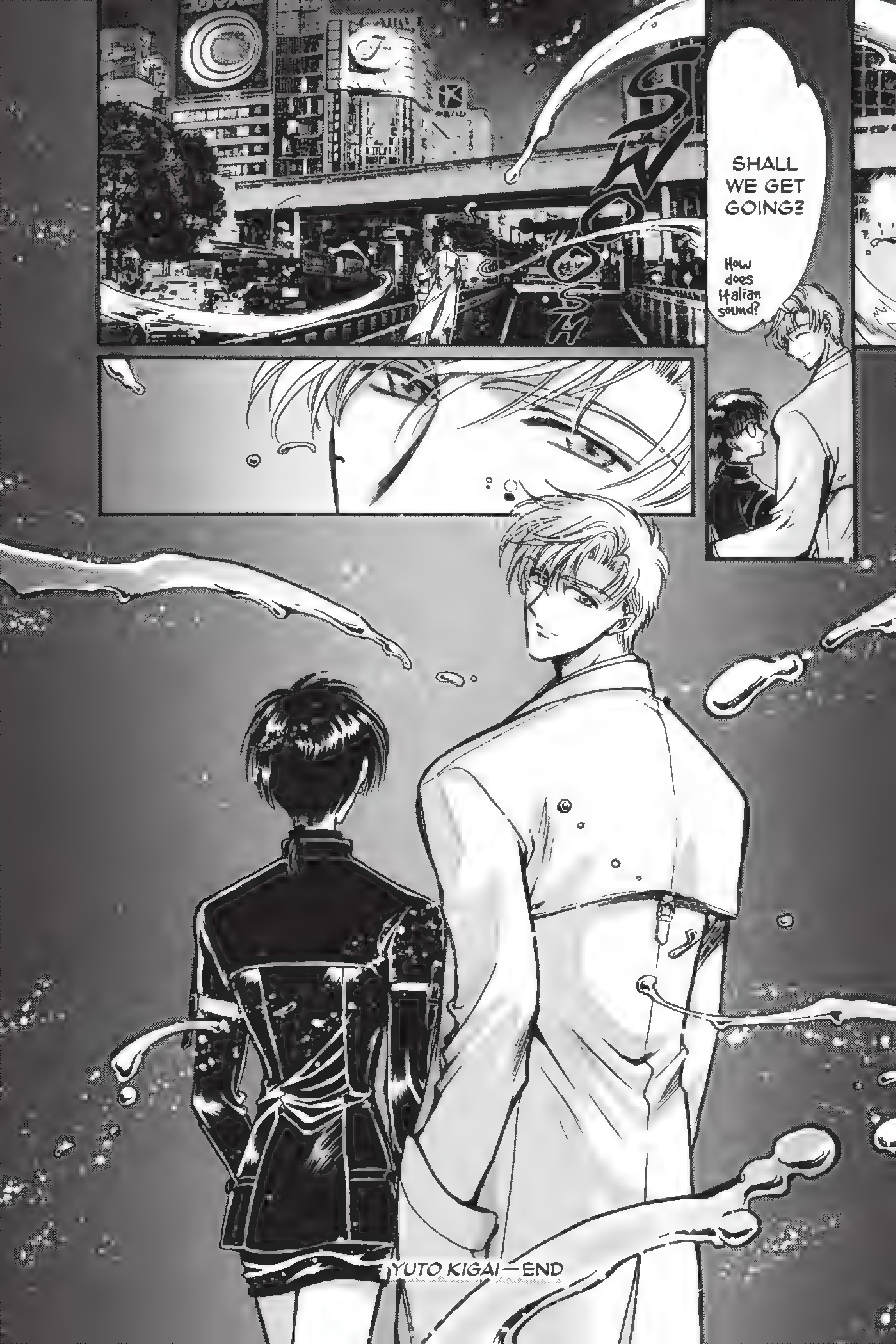

"KAMUI" ...
Given
IT'S QUITE A NICE NAME.
TOO BAD IT ALREADY BELONGS TO THE ONE WHO CARRIES THE FATE OF THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS.
I CAN'T IMAGINE SHARING THAT NAME WOULD MAKE ANYONE VERY HAPPY.


WELL, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO HEAD OUT. GOOD NIGHT, ALL!
HAVE A GOOD EVENING!
TMP
BEFORE I GO, HERE'S A SMALL TREAT TO MAKE WORKING OVERTIME SWEETER.
OOH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH! ♡
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
ISN'T MR. KIGAI WONDERFUL? ♡


I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
I tried to get here 10 minutes beforehand ....
FSSSH
I JUST GOT HERE.
BUT I STILL MADE YOU WAIT.
I'll try to get out earlier next time.
TMP
FWSSSS
SPLSH
SHAA
WATER LOVES BEING AROUND YOU.
YOU HAVE A REMARKABLE AFFINITY FOR IT.


WITH THAT ABILITY, WHY DO YOU USE WEAPONS?
IT'S ONLY A MINOR TALENT.
USING WATER'S A BOTHER, REALLY.
Hard to work with.
AND THESE LITTLE TOYS ARE OFTEN ENOUGH TO DO THE TRICK.
WHAT MADE YOU ACCEPT KANOE'S OFFER?
WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM IT?


NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.
IF ...
...FATE REALLY DOES EXIST...
... PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FIGHT IT.
BUT IF WE LET THINGS FLOW AS THEY WILL...
...AT LEAST IT'S AMUSING TO WATCH, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE END.
HA HA HA!
THAT SOUNDS RATHER CAVALIER, DOESN'T IT?

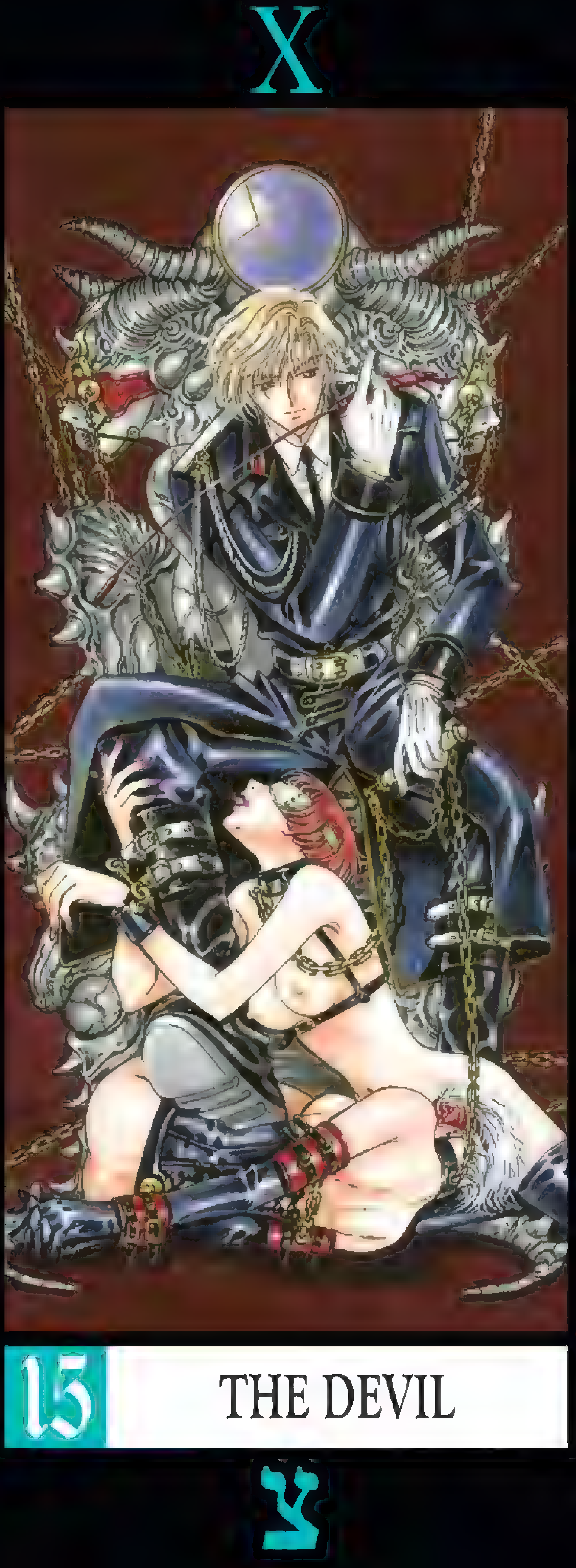

SHALL WE GET GOING?
How does Italian sound?
SWOOSH
YUTO KIGAI—END

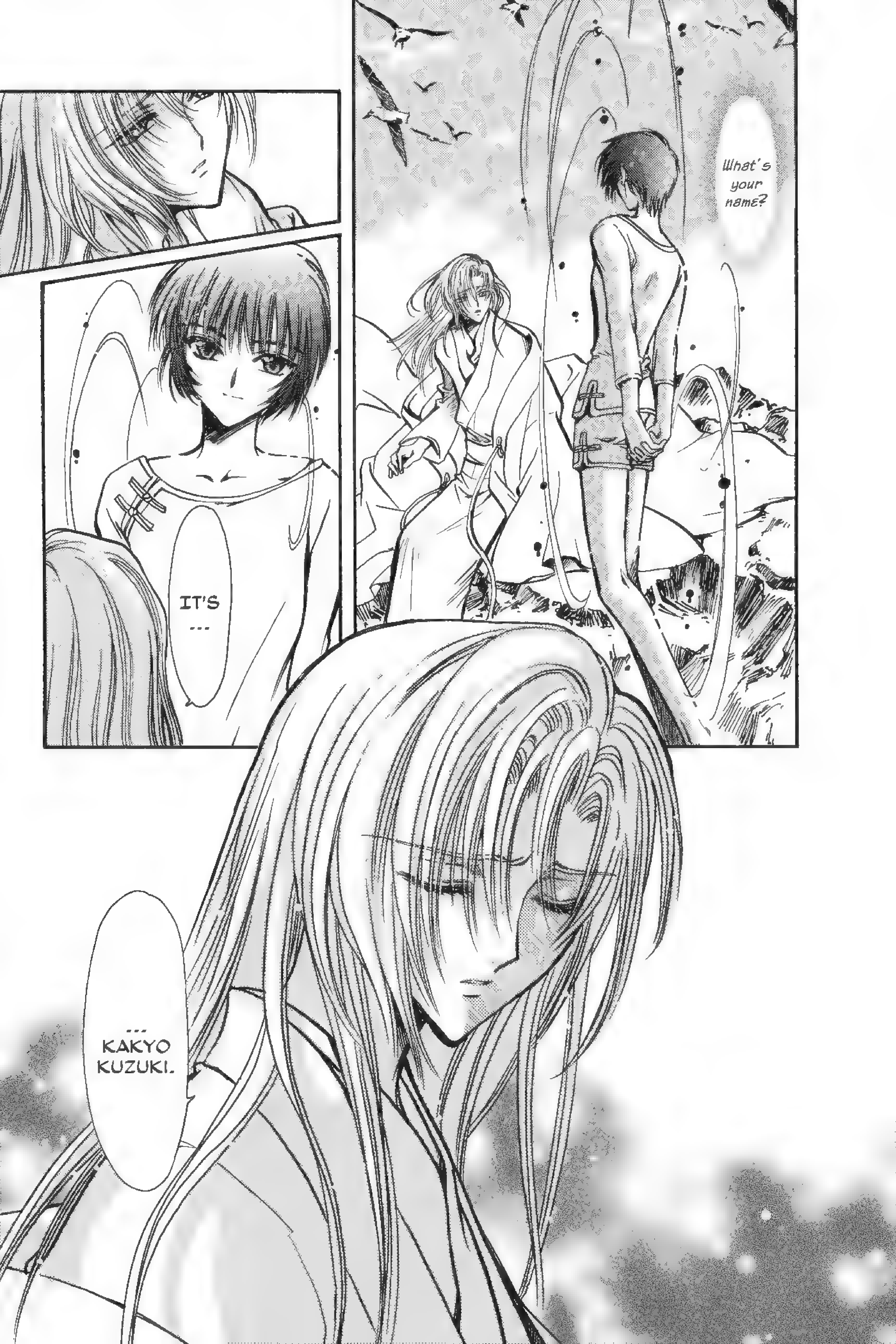
X

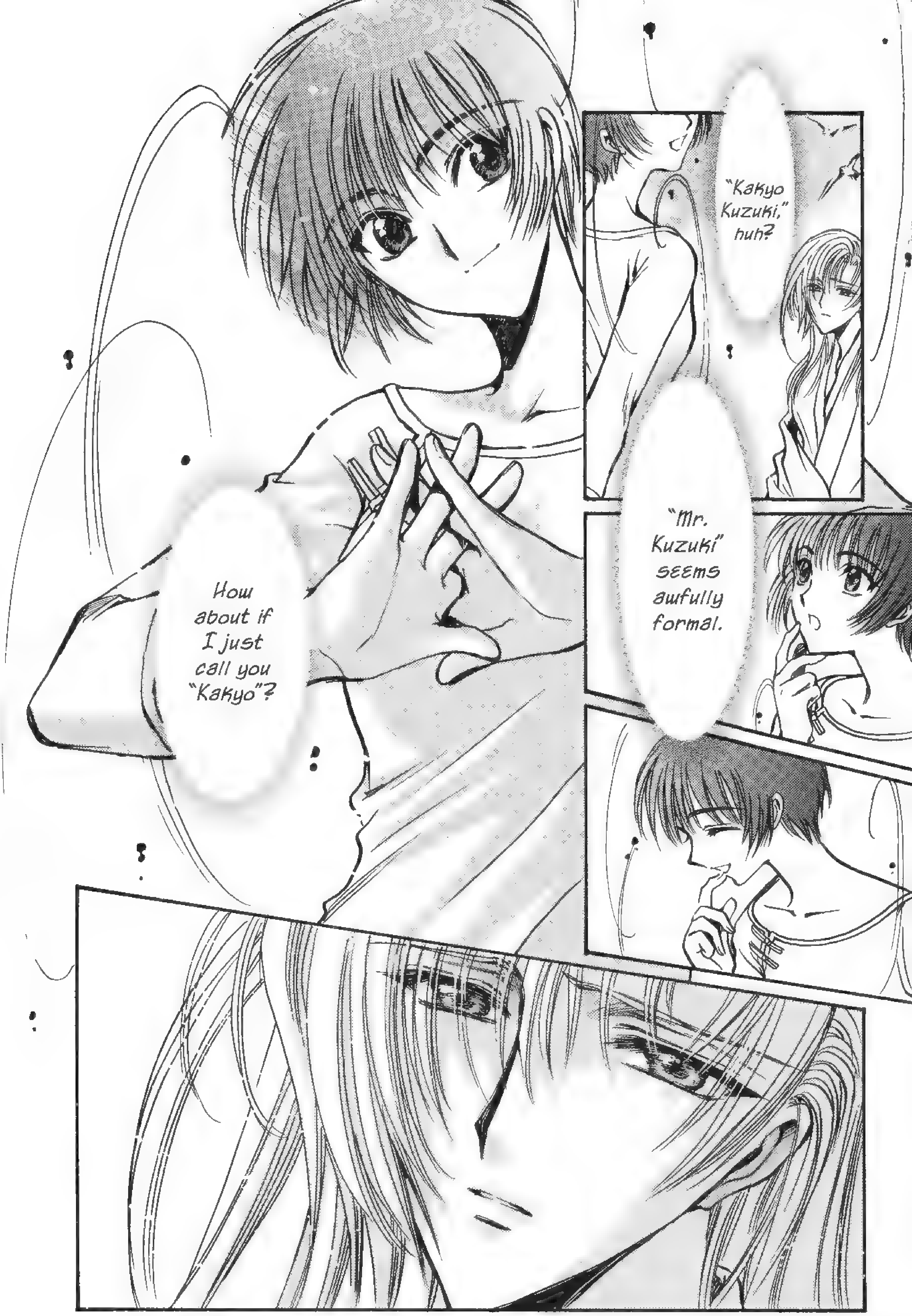
X

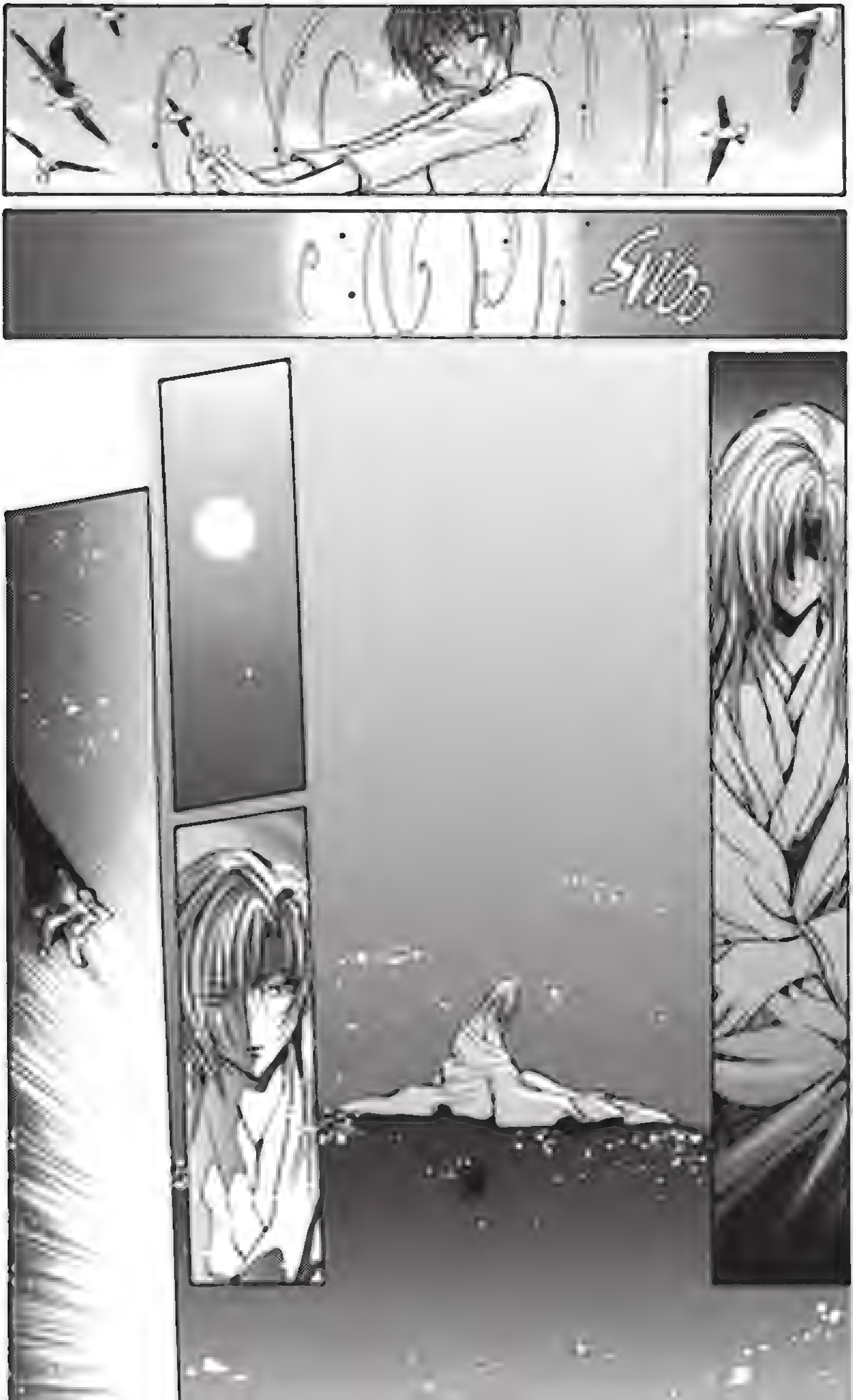
VOLUME 5, PART 3

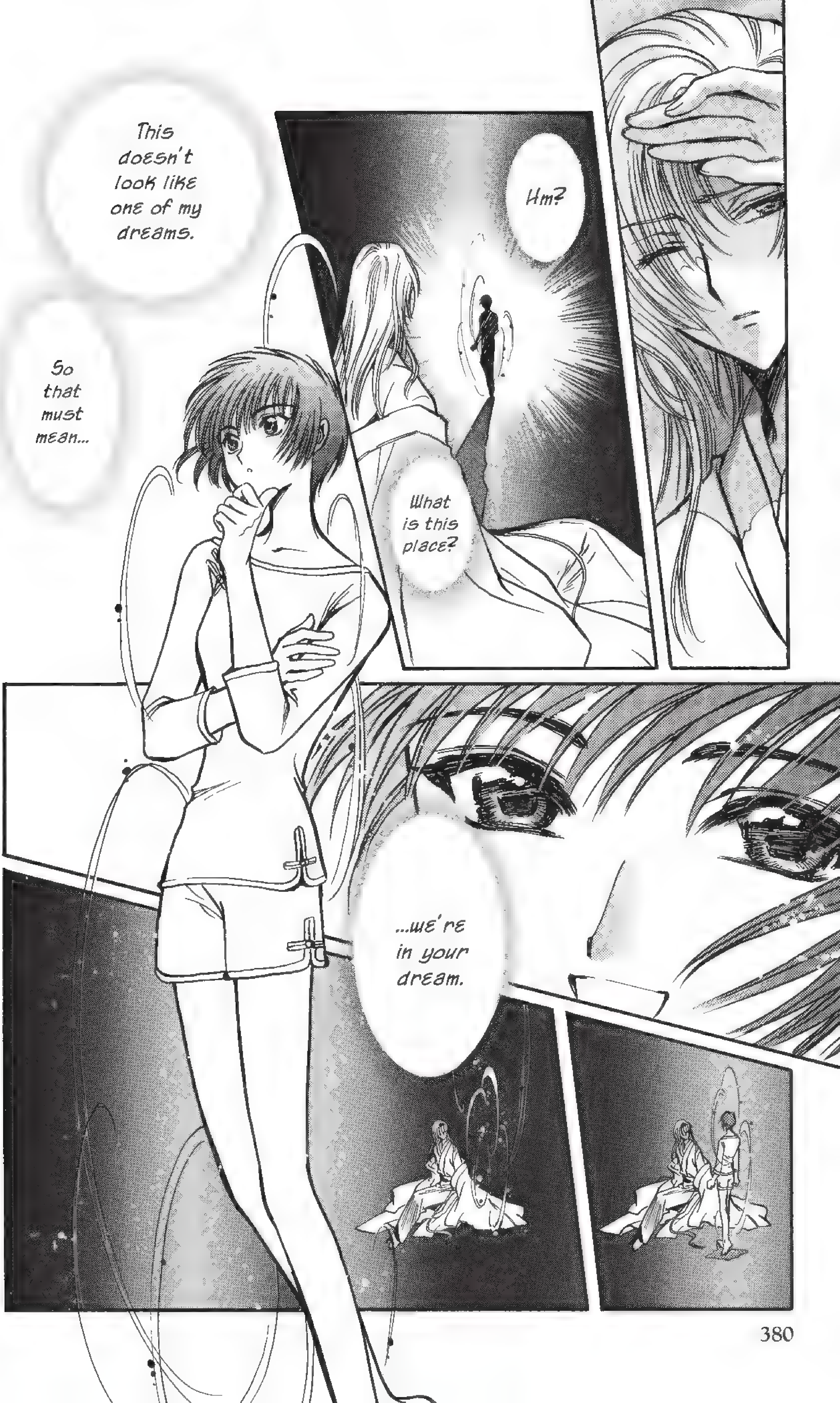
KEKKAI V

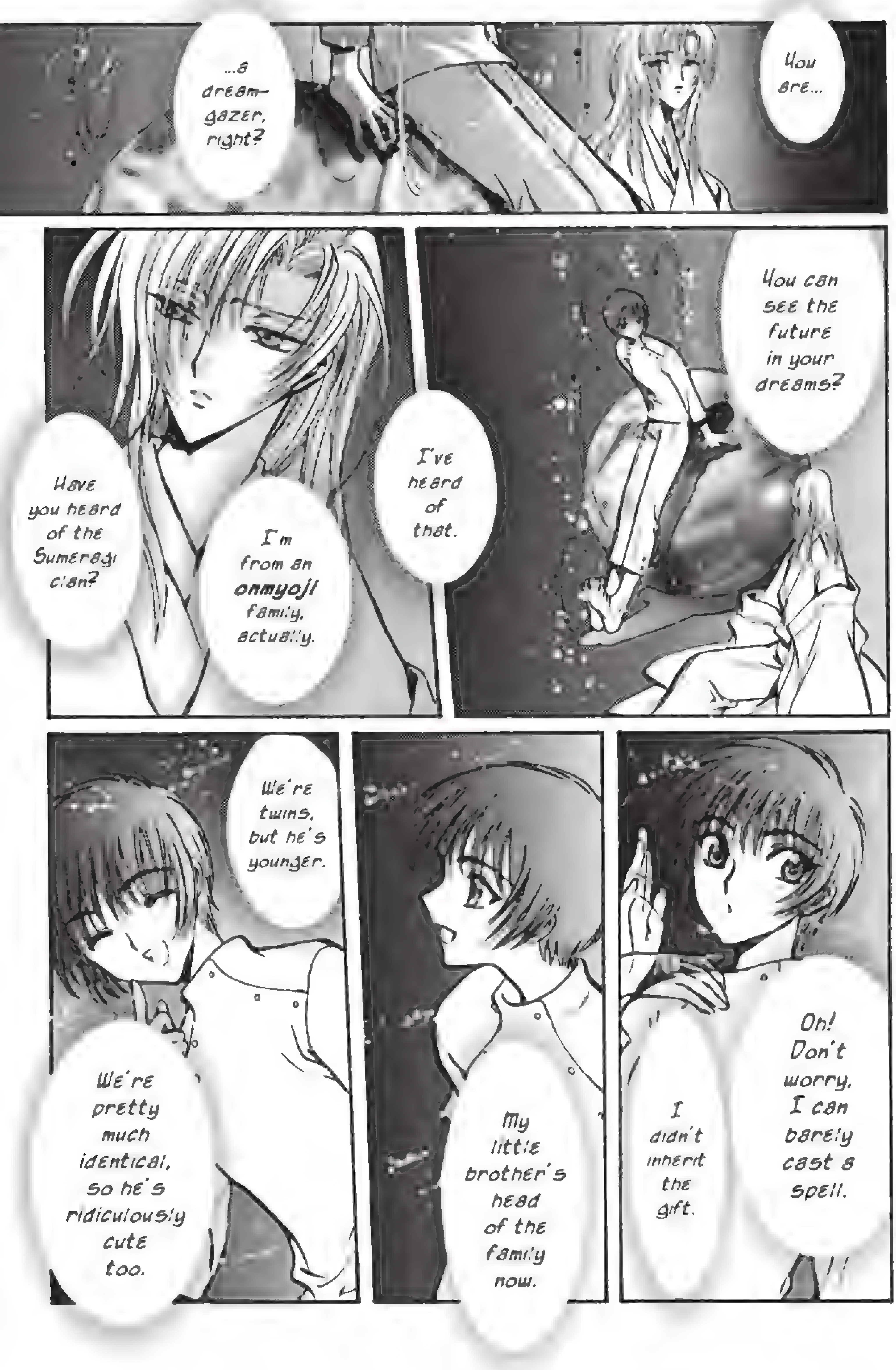

X
15
THE DEVIL
צ

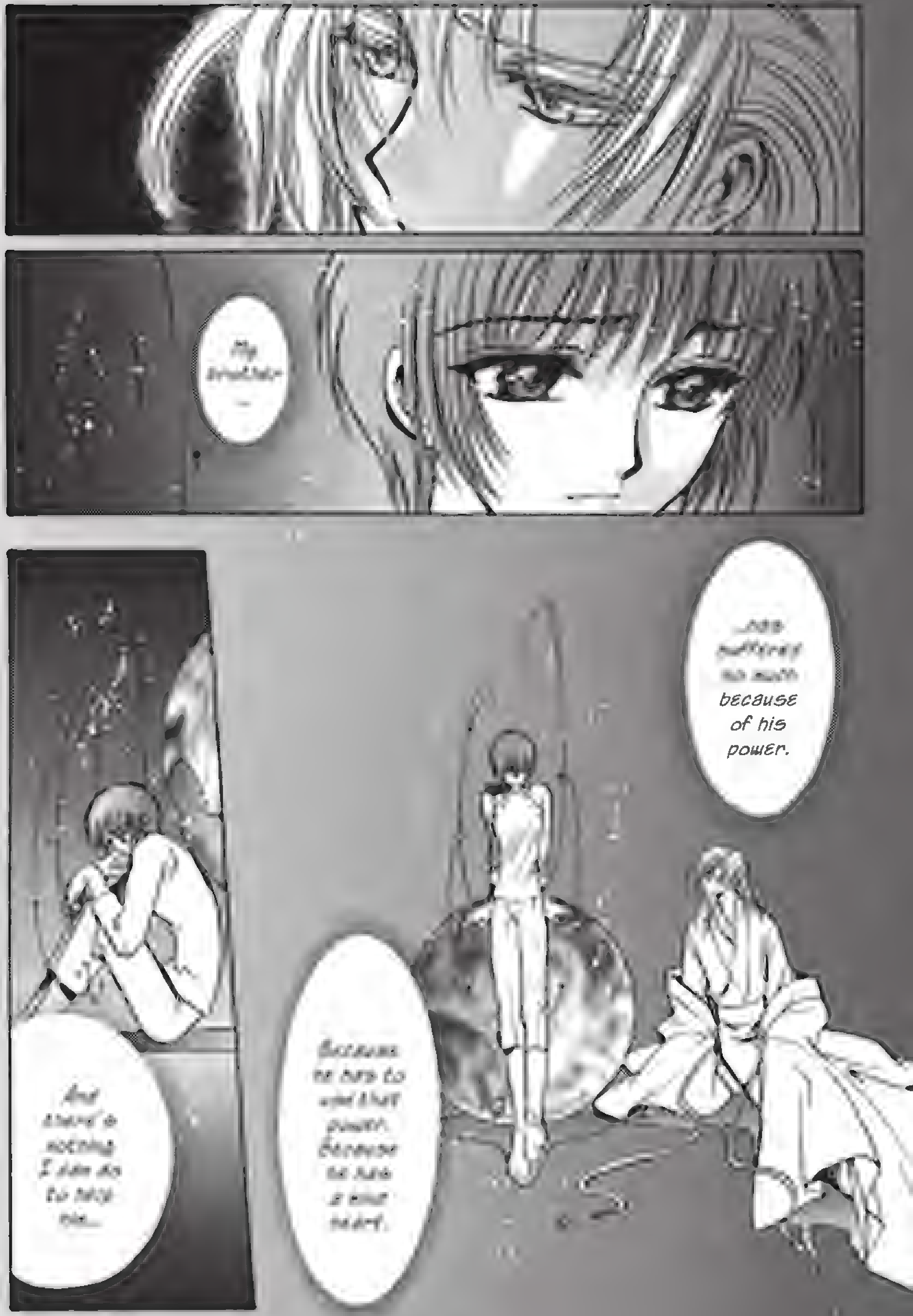

What's your name?
IT'S ...
... KAKYO KUZUKI.

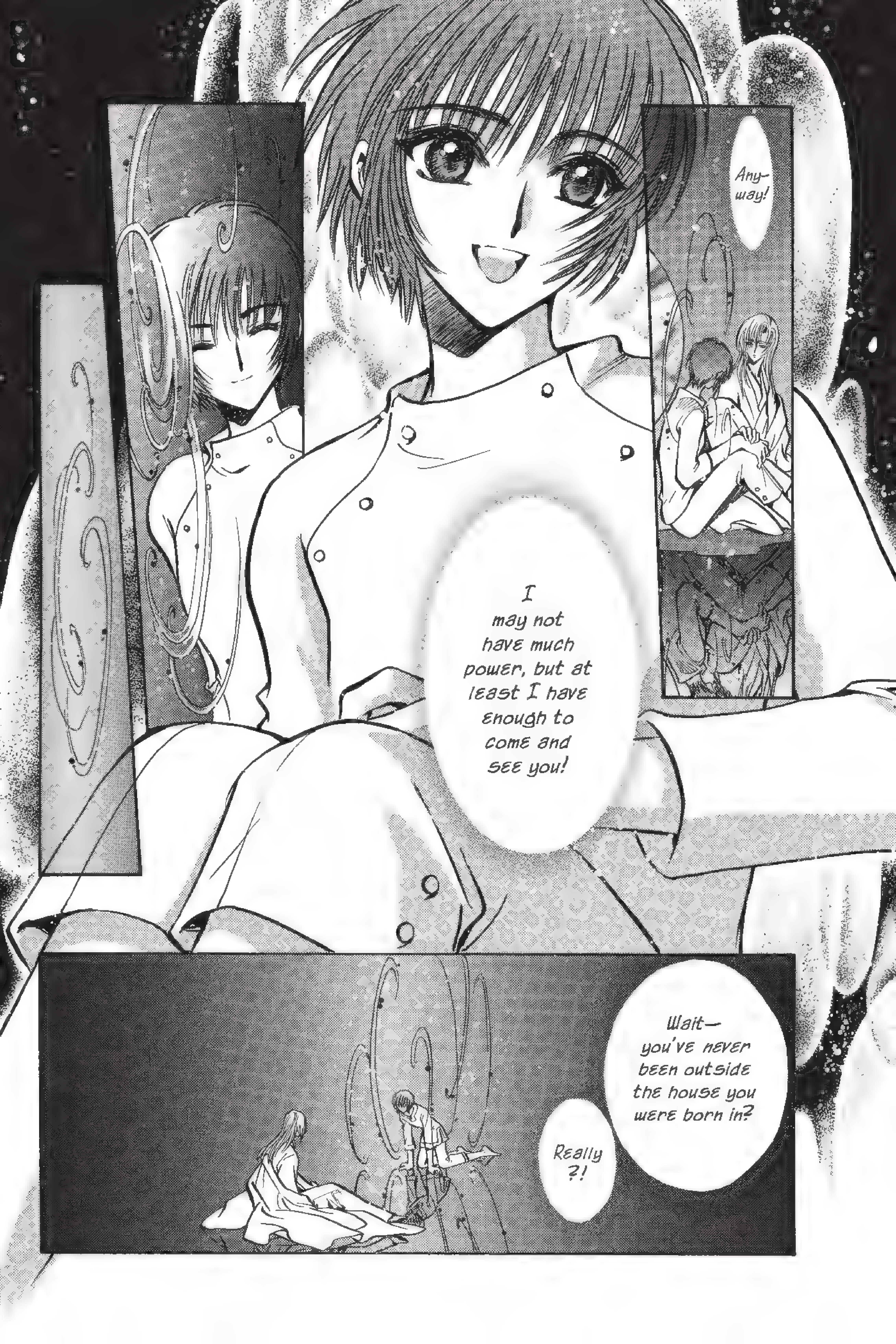

"Kakyo Kuzuki," huh?
"Mr. Kuzuki" seems awfully formal.
How about if I just call you "Kakyo"?

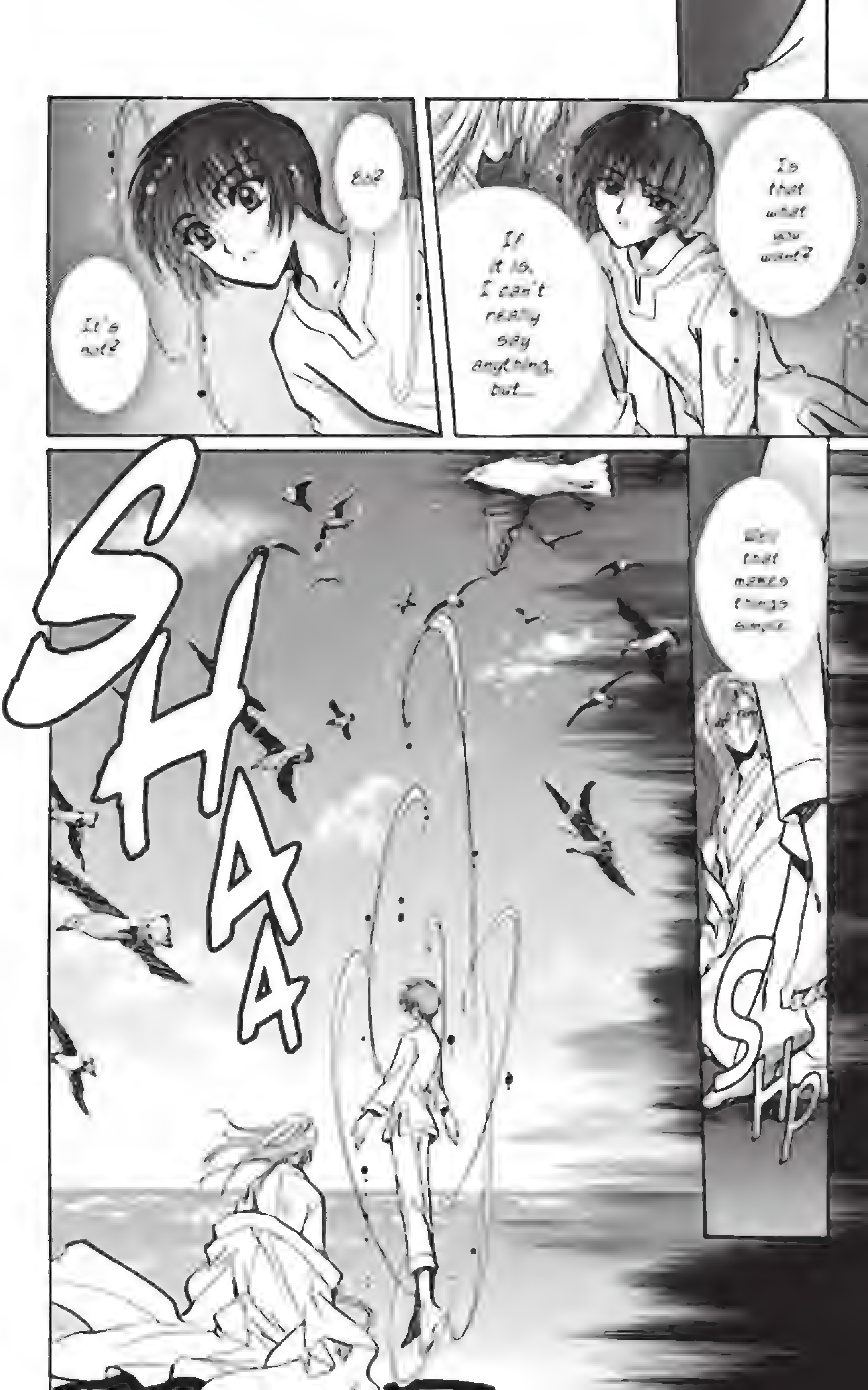

Shoo

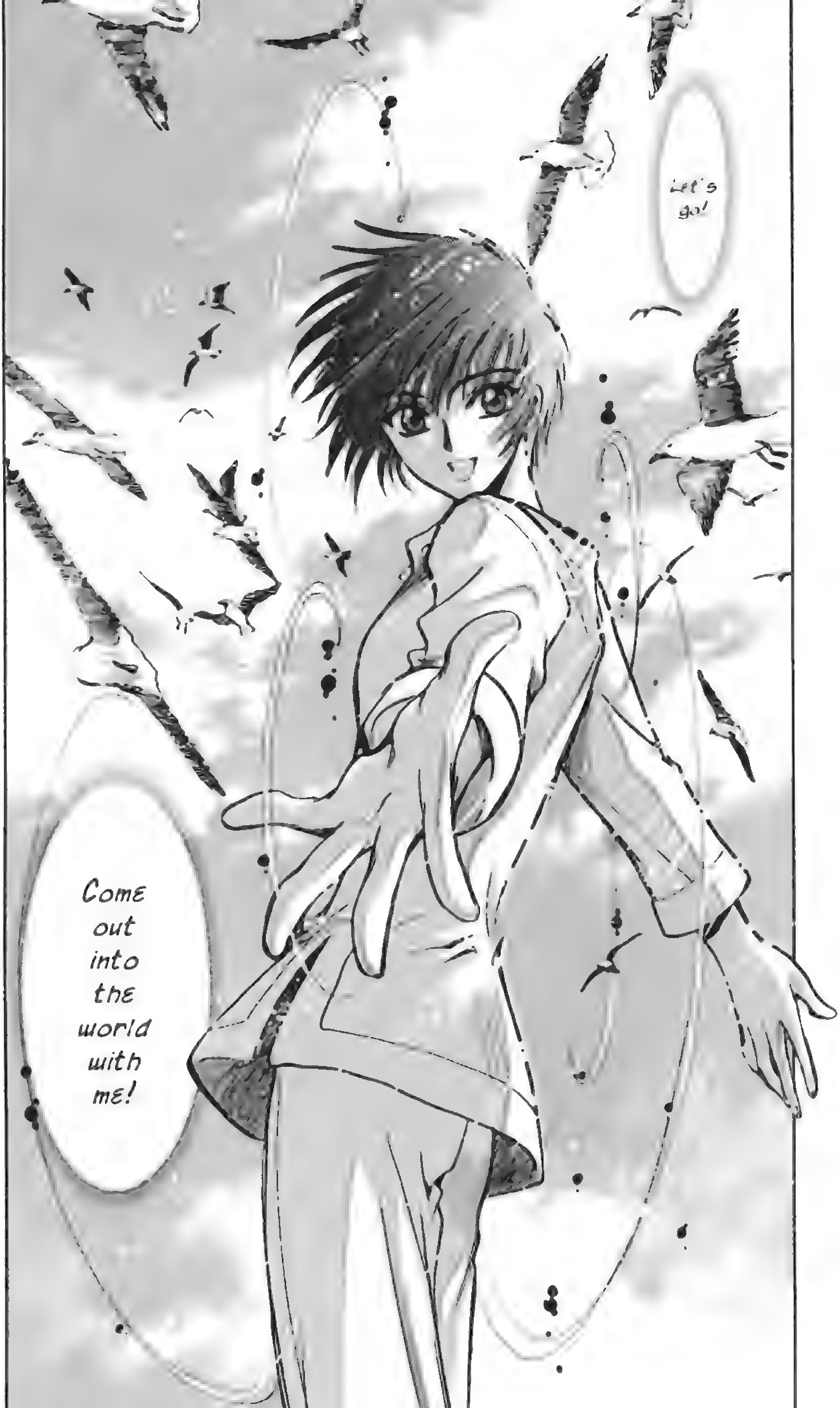

Hm?
What is this place?
This doesn't look like one of my dreams.
So that must mean...
...we're in your dream.

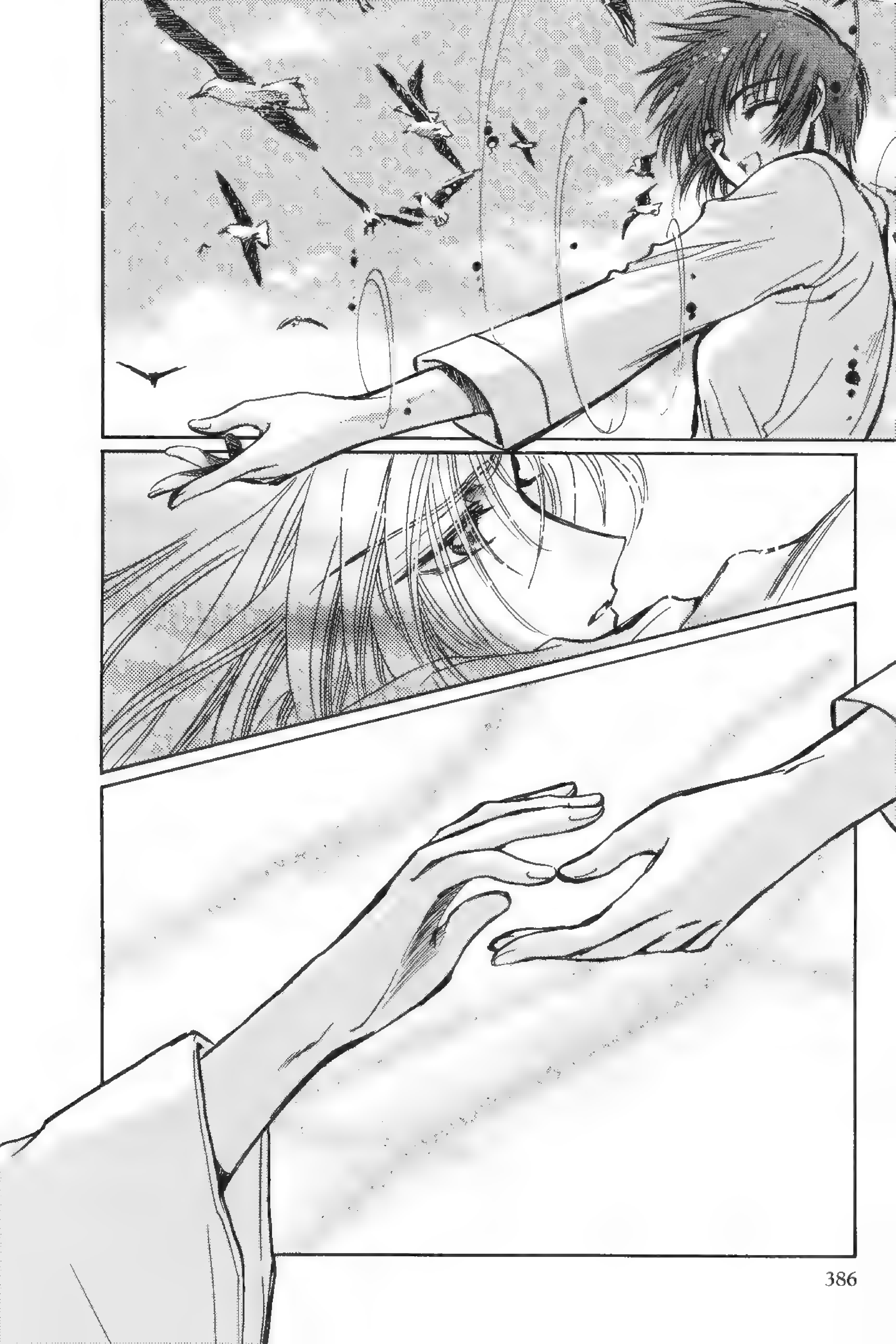

You are...
...a dream-gazer, right?
You can see the future in your dreams?
I've heard of that.
I'm from an **onmyoji** family, actually.
Have you heard of the Sumeragi clan?
Oh! Don't worry, I can barely cast a spell.
I didn't inherit the gift.
My little brother's head of the family now.
We're twins, but he's younger.
We're pretty much identical, so he's ridiculously cute too.

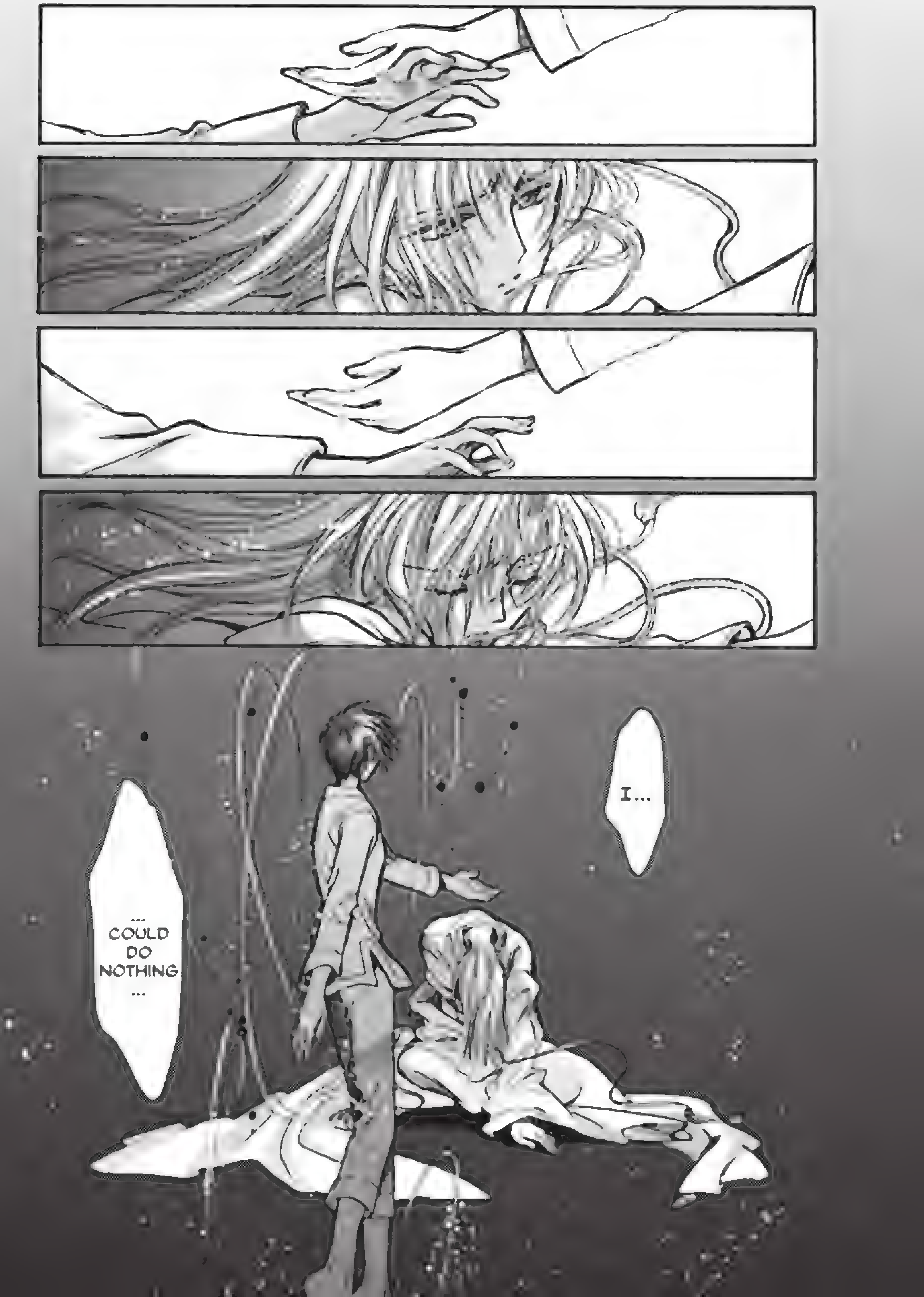

My brother...
...was suffering so much because of his power.
Because he has to wield that power. Because he has a kind heart.
And there's nothing I can do to help him...

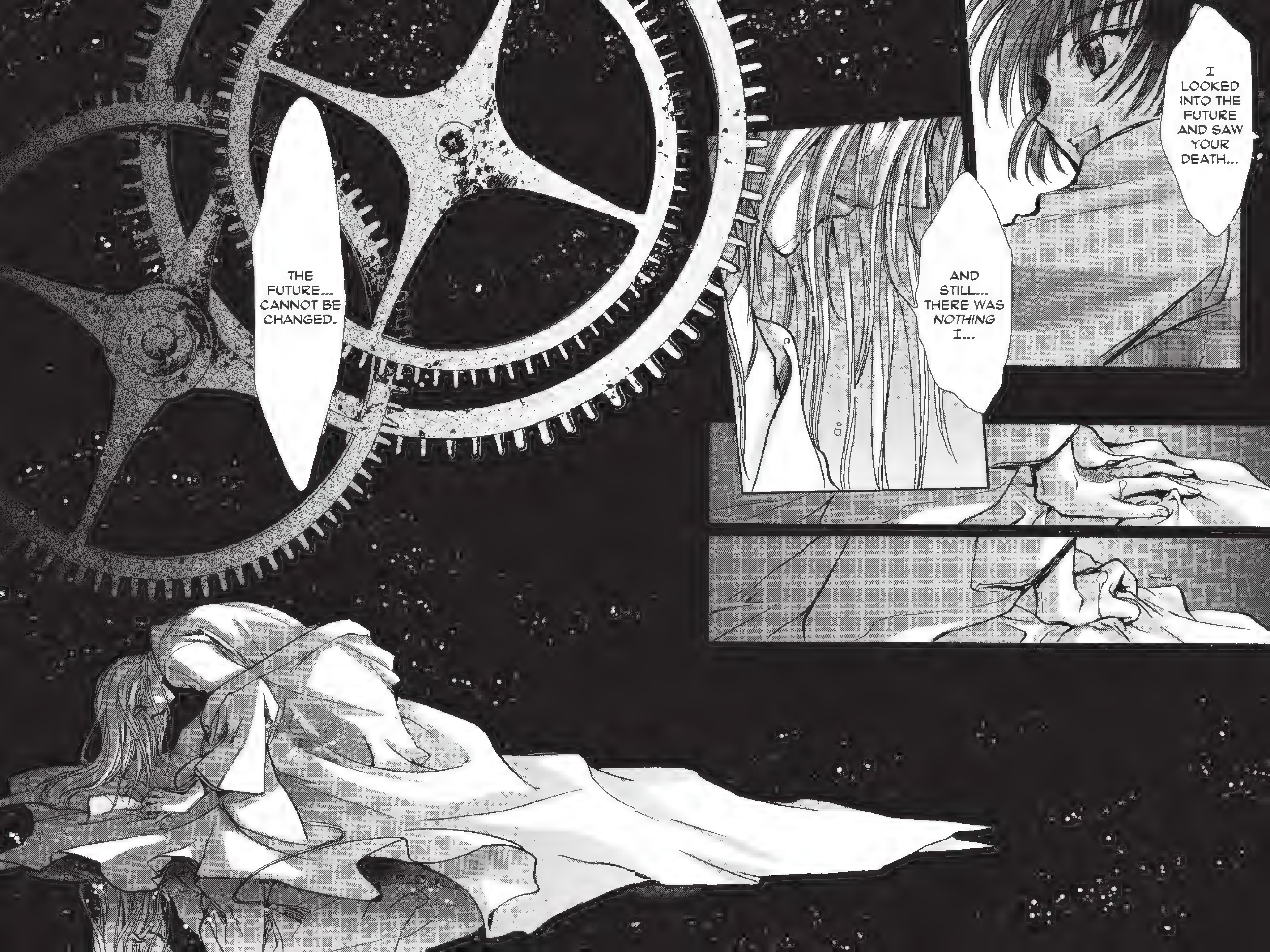

Any-way!
I may not have much power, but at least I have enough to come and see you!
Wait— you've never been outside the house you were born in?
Really ?!

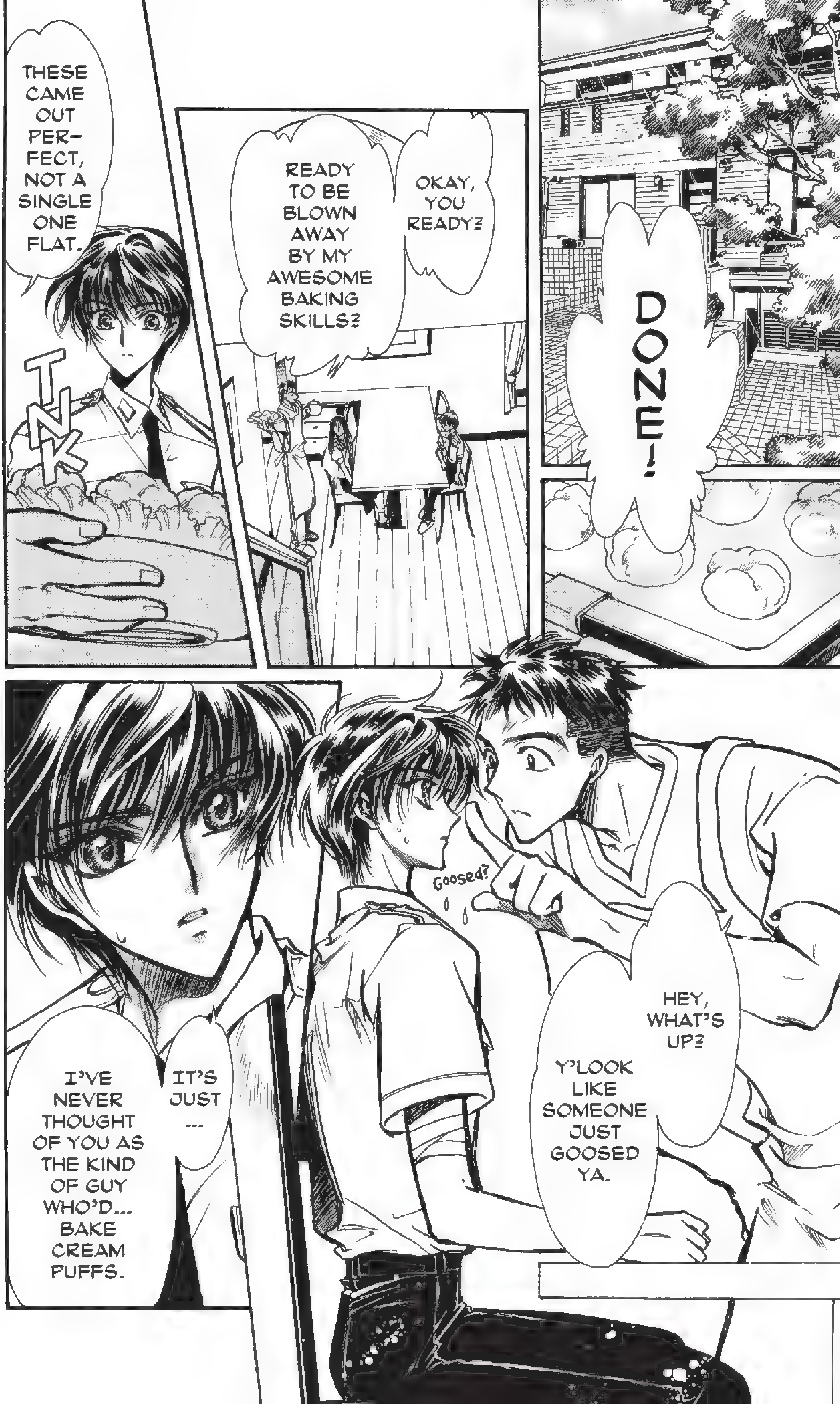

Is that what you want?
If it is, I can't really say anything, but...
Eh?
It's not?
Why that makes things simple.
SHP
SHAA

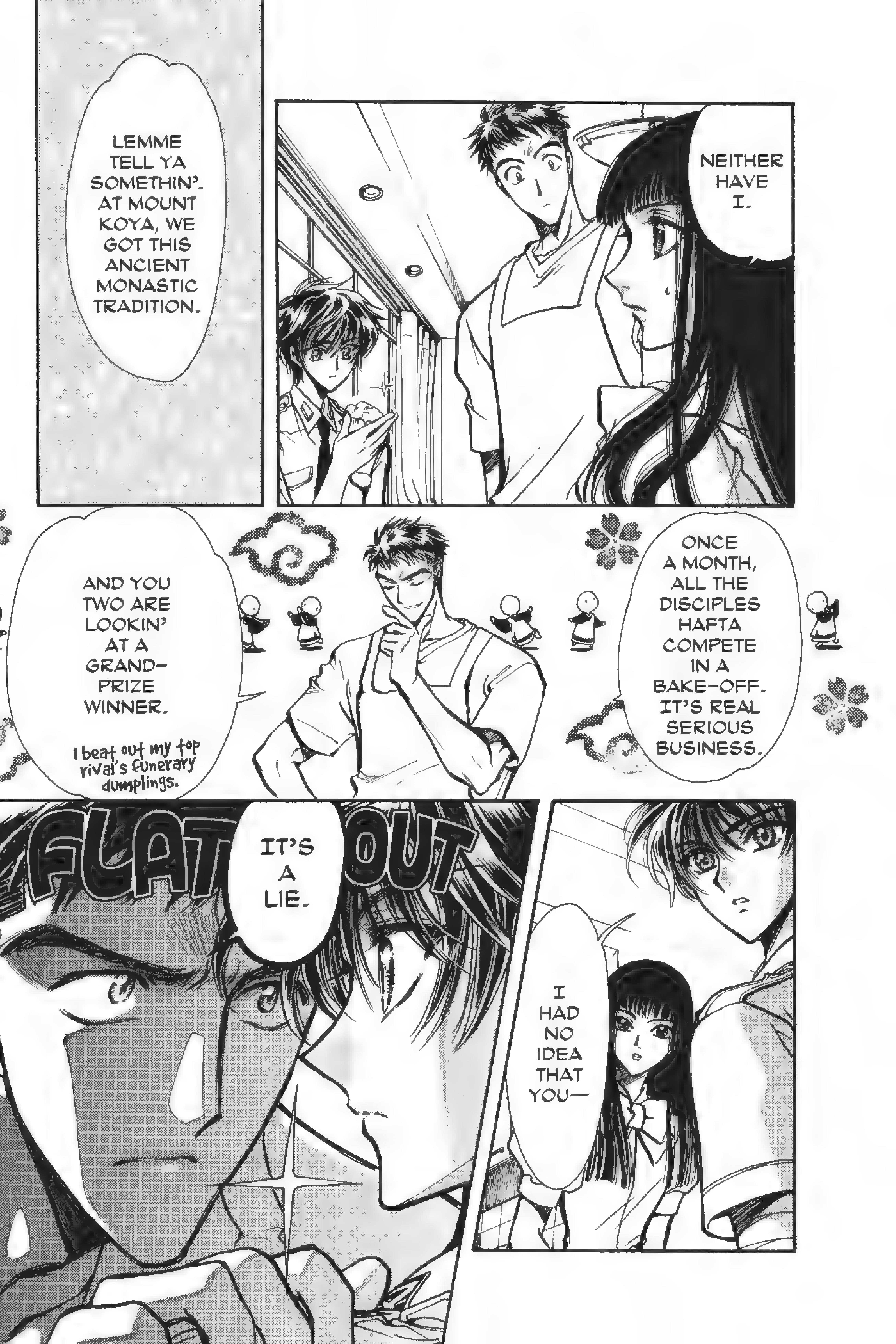

Let's go!
Come out into the world with me!

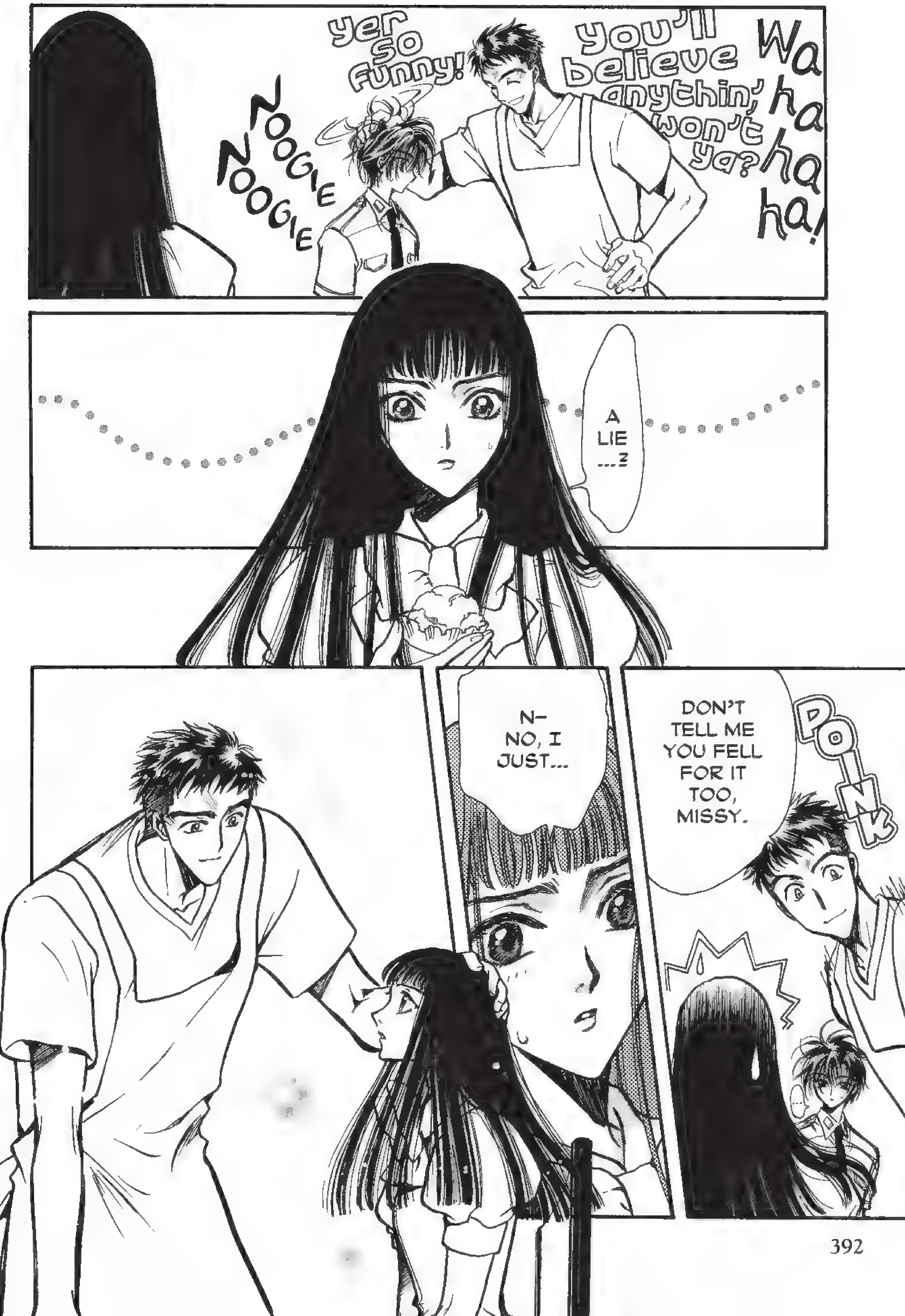


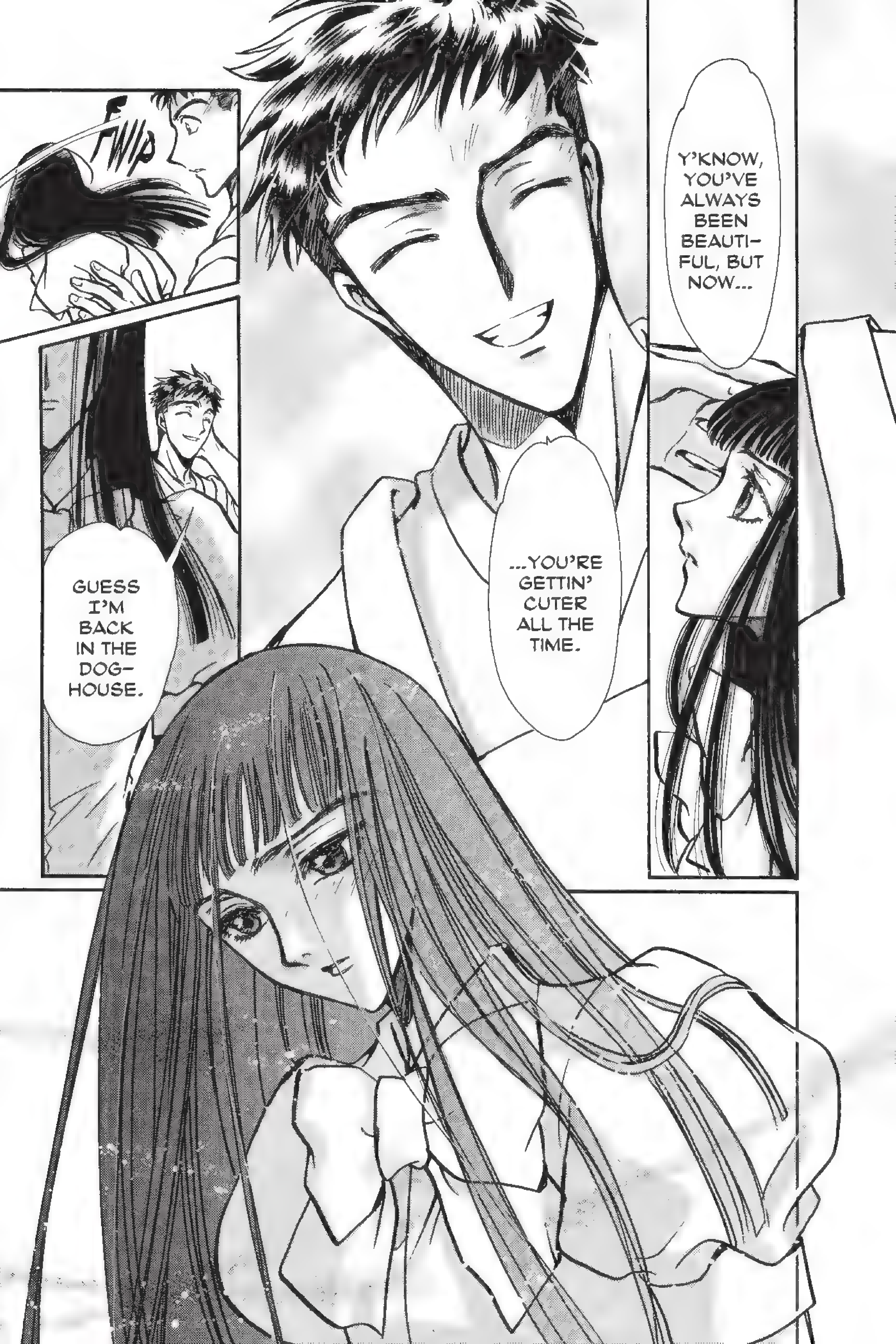

I...
...COULD DO NOTHING...

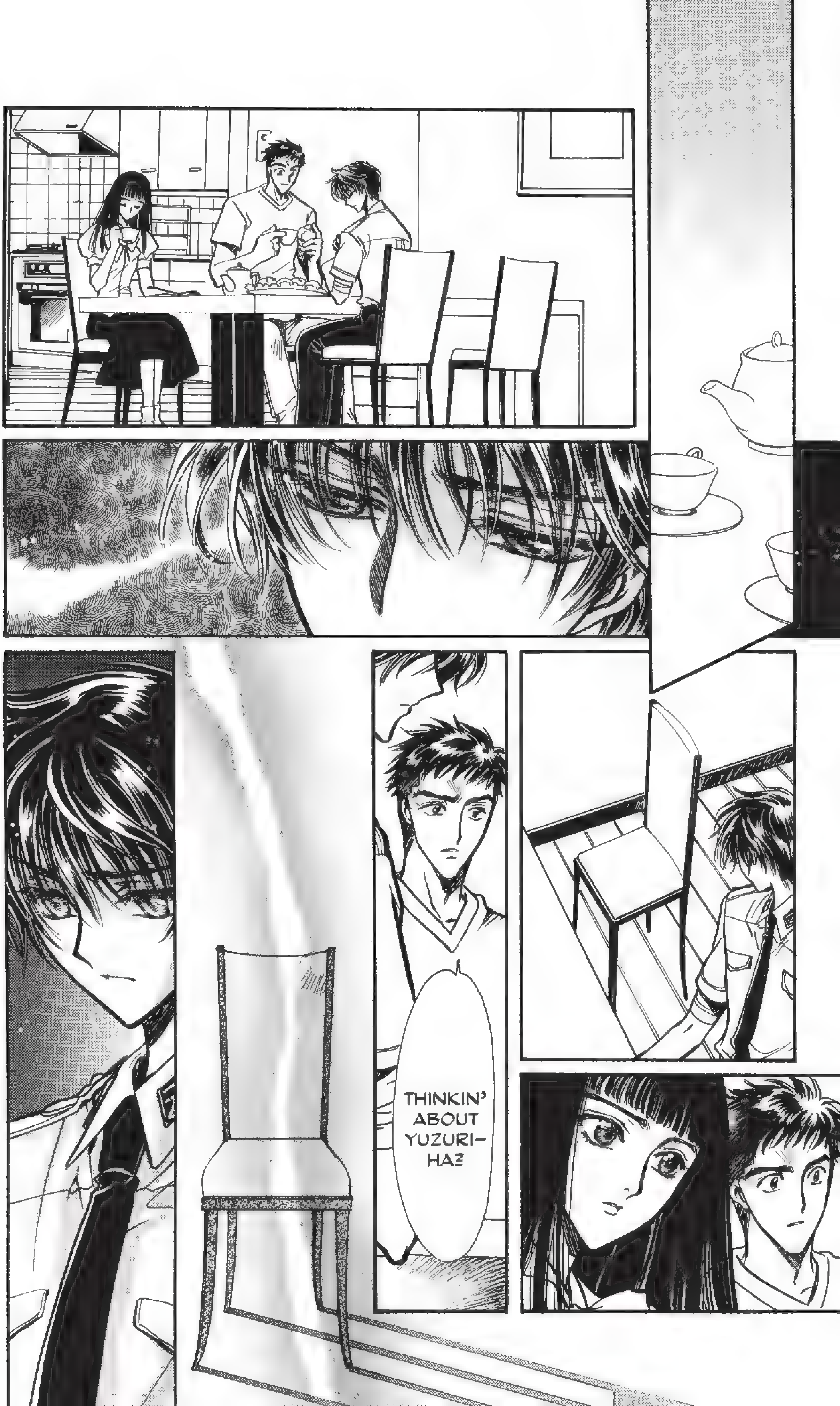

I LOOKED INTO THE FUTURE AND SAW YOUR DEATH...
AND STILL... THERE WAS *NOTHING* I...
THE FUTURE... CANNOT BE CHANGED.

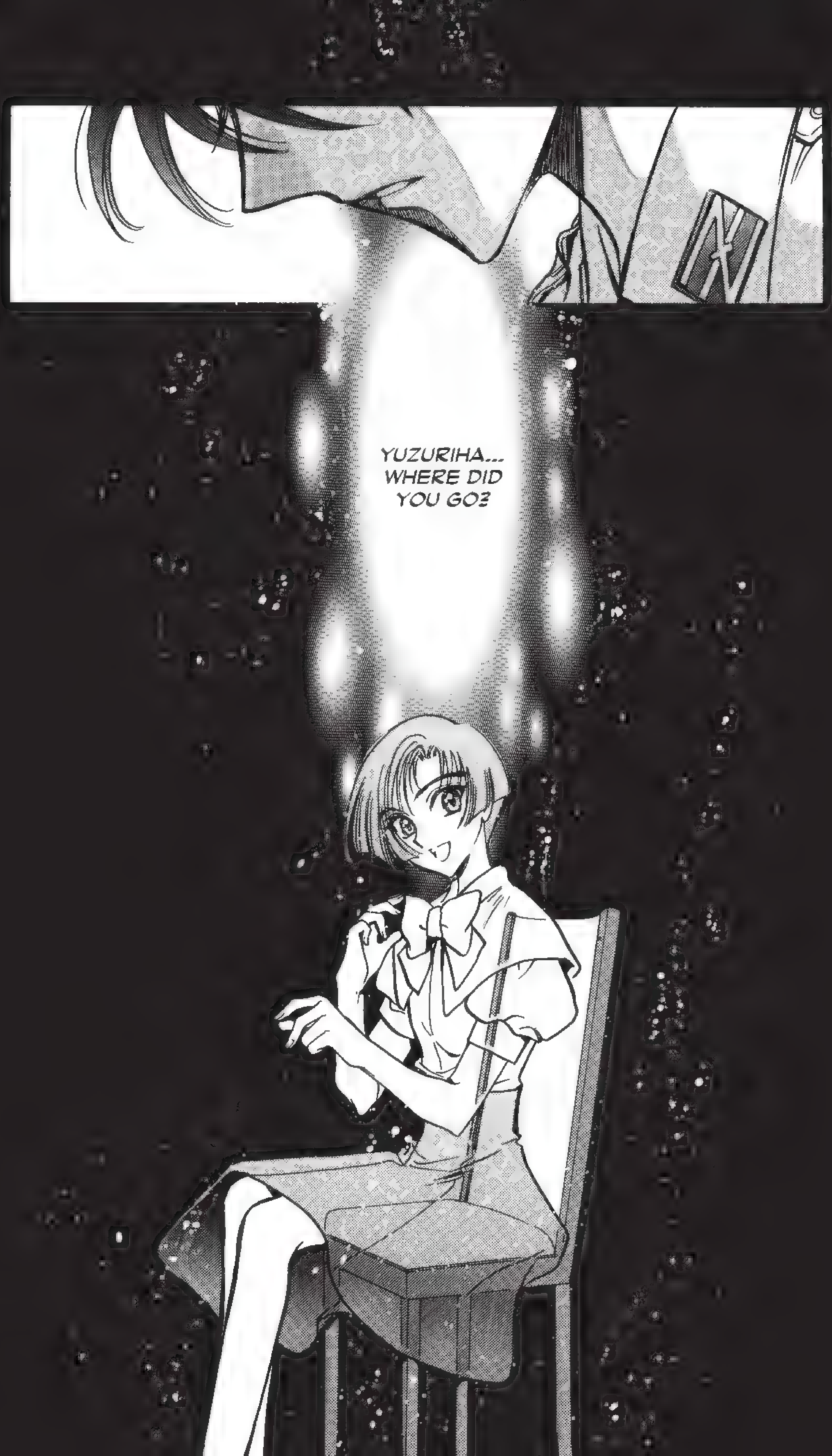

DONE!
OKAY, YOU READY?
READY TO BE BLOWN AWAY BY MY AWESOME BAKING SKILLS?
THESE CAME OUT PERFECT, NOT A SINGLE ONE FLAT.
TINK
HEY, WHAT'S UP?
Y'LOOK LIKE SOMEONE JUST GOOSED YA.
Goosed?
IT'S JUST ...
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D... BAKE CREAM PUFFS.

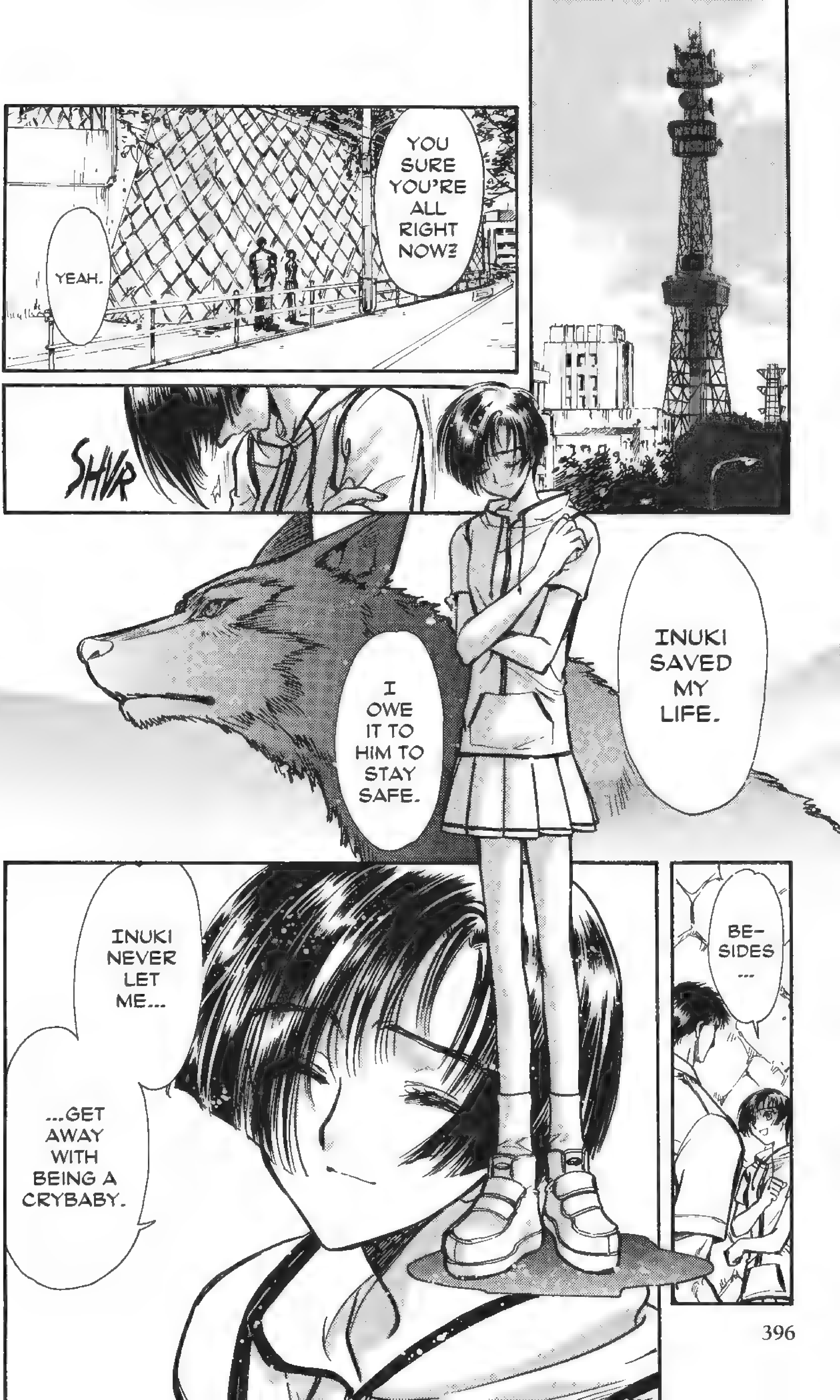

NEITHER HAVE I.
LEMME TELL YA SOMETHIN'. AT MOUNT KOYA, WE GOT THIS ANCIENT MONASTIC TRADITION.
ONCE A MONTH, ALL THE DISCIPLES HAFTA COMPETE IN A BAKE-OFF. IT'S REAL SERIOUS BUSINESS.
AND YOU TWO ARE LOOKIN' AT A GRAND-PRIZE WINNER.
I beat out my top rival's funerary dumplings.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU—
FLAT OUT
IT'S A LIE.

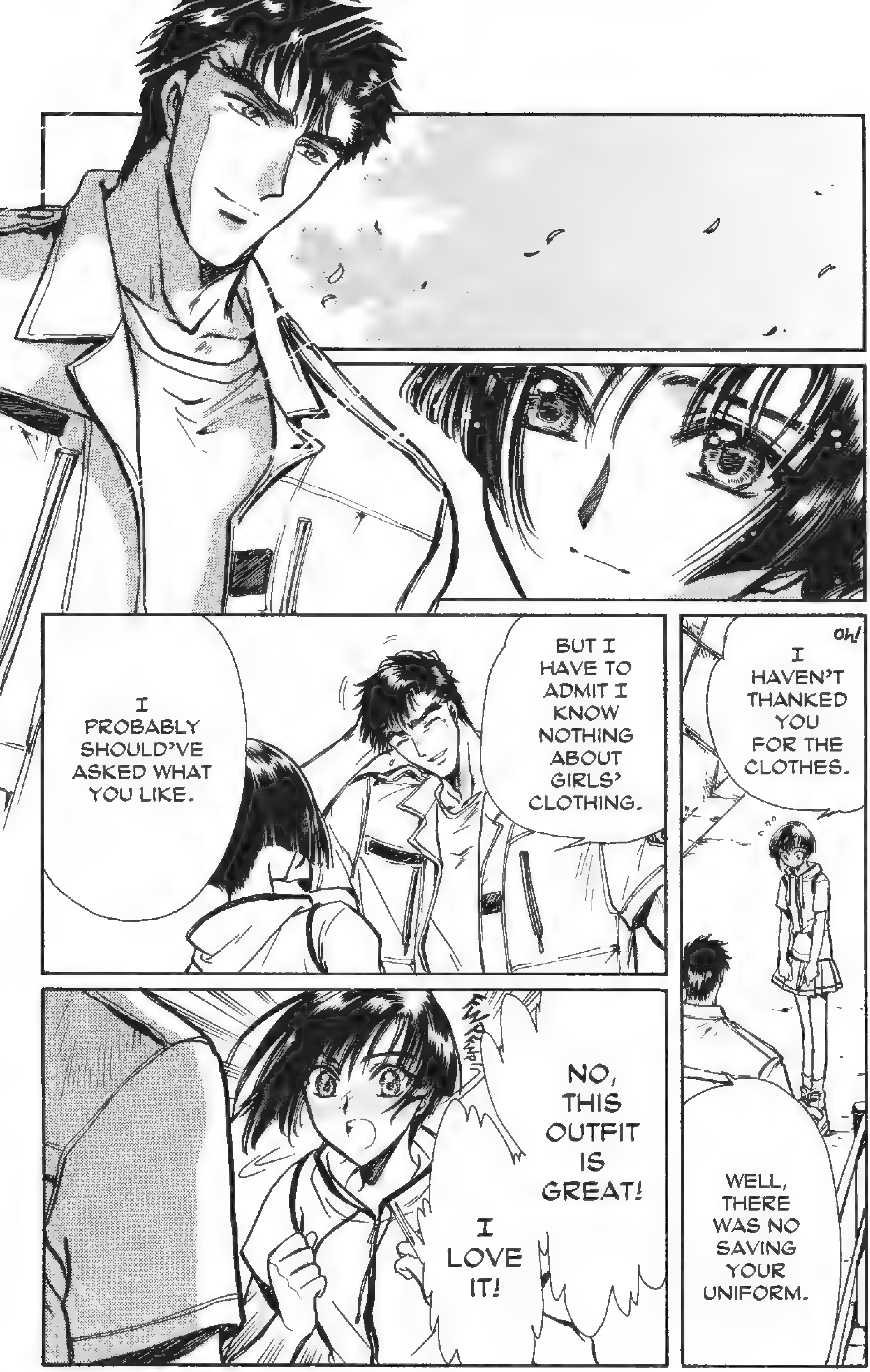

Wa ha ha ha!
You'll believe anythin', won't ya?
Yer so funny!
Noogie
Noogie
A LIE ...?
DON'T TELL ME YOU FELL FOR IT TOO, MISSY.
POINK
...
N— NO, I JUST...

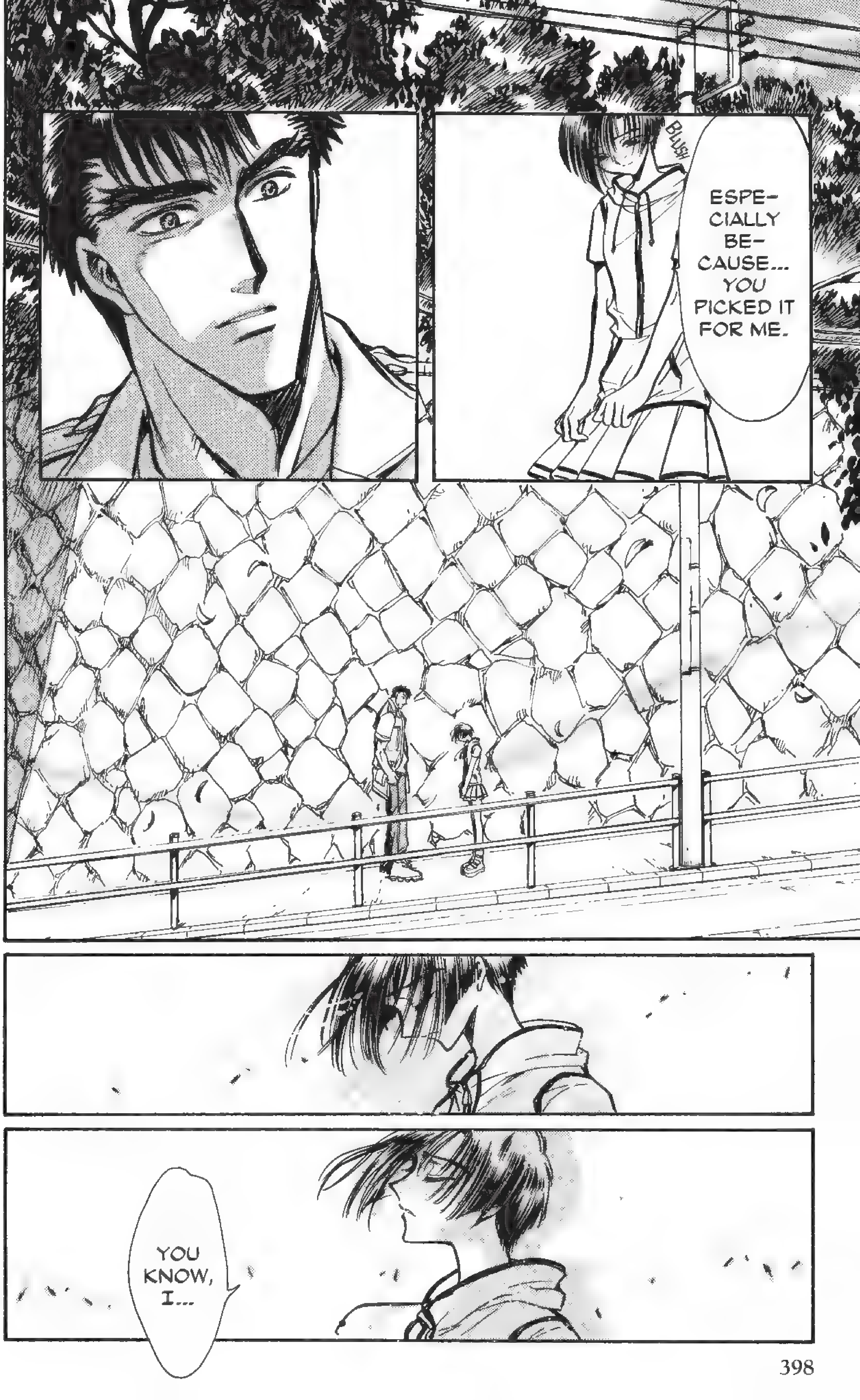

Y'KNOW, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN BEAUTIFUL, BUT NOW...
...YOU'RE GETTIN' CUTER ALL THE TIME.
FWIP
GUESS I'M BACK IN THE DOGHOUSE.

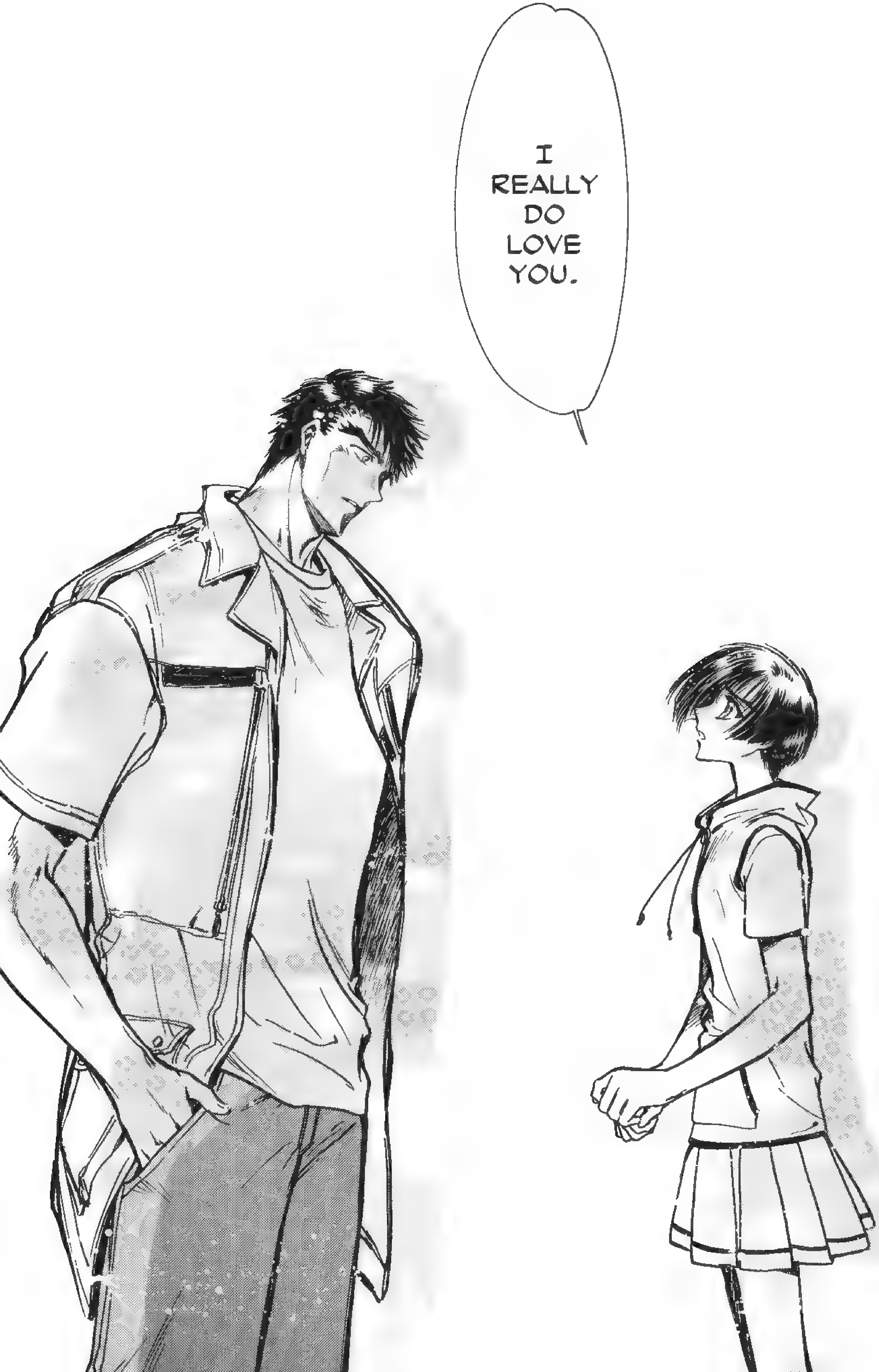

THINKIN' ABOUT YUZURIHA?

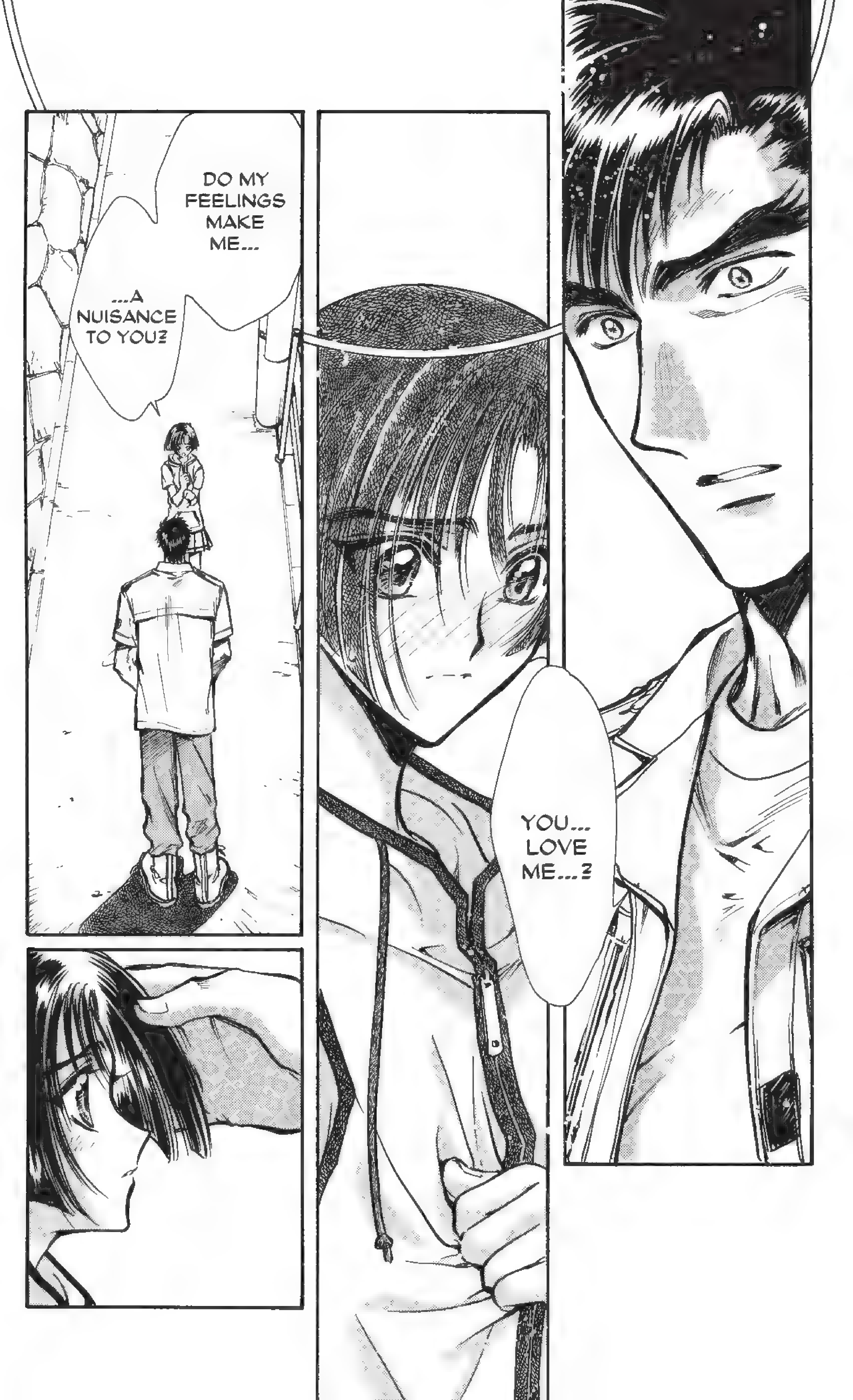

YUZURIHA...
WHERE DID
YOU GO?

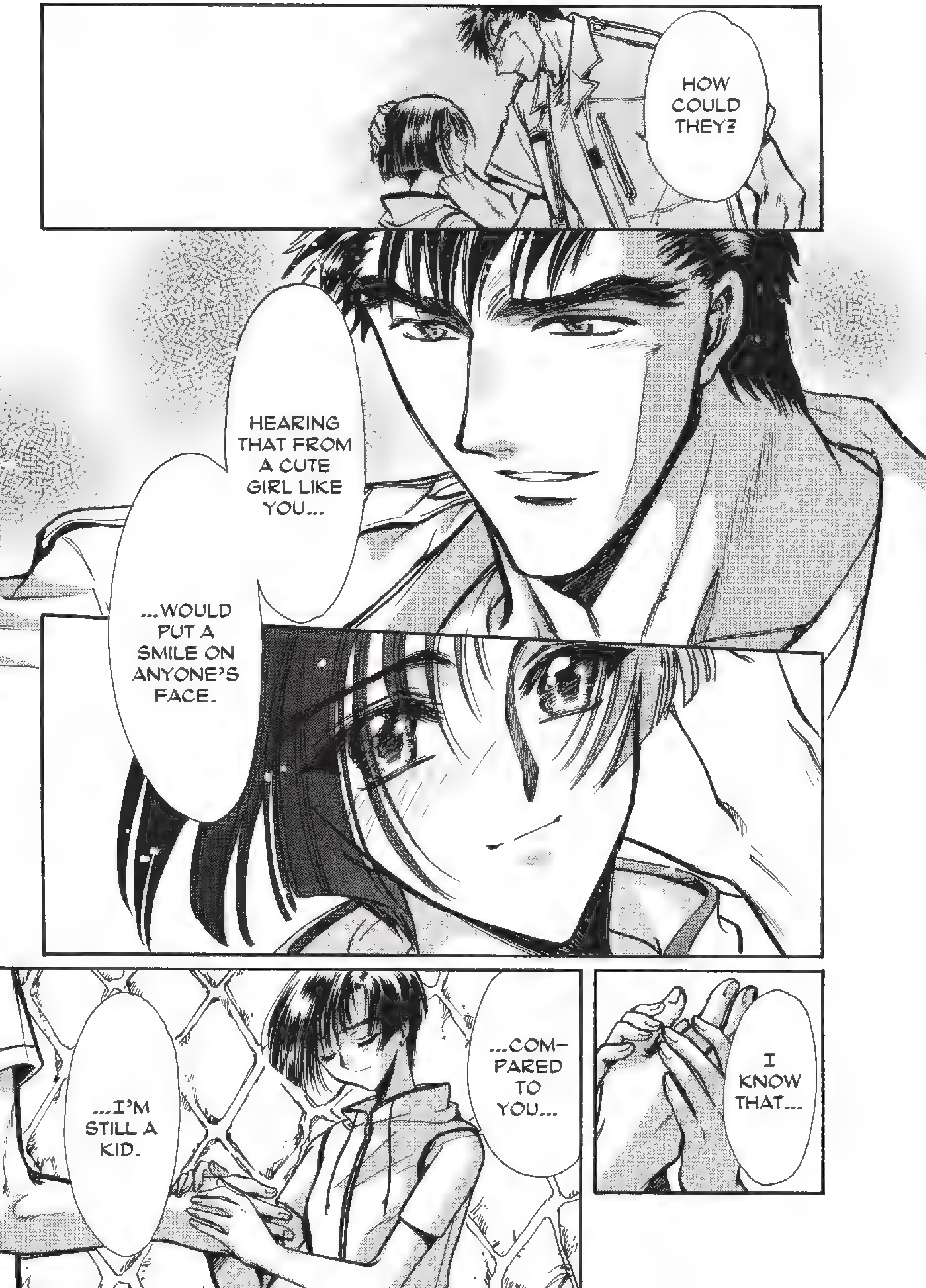

YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW?
YEAH.
SHVR
INUKI SAVED MY LIFE.
I OWE IT TO HIM TO STAY SAFE.
BESIDES...
INUKI NEVER LET ME...
...GET AWAY WITH BEING A CRYBABY.

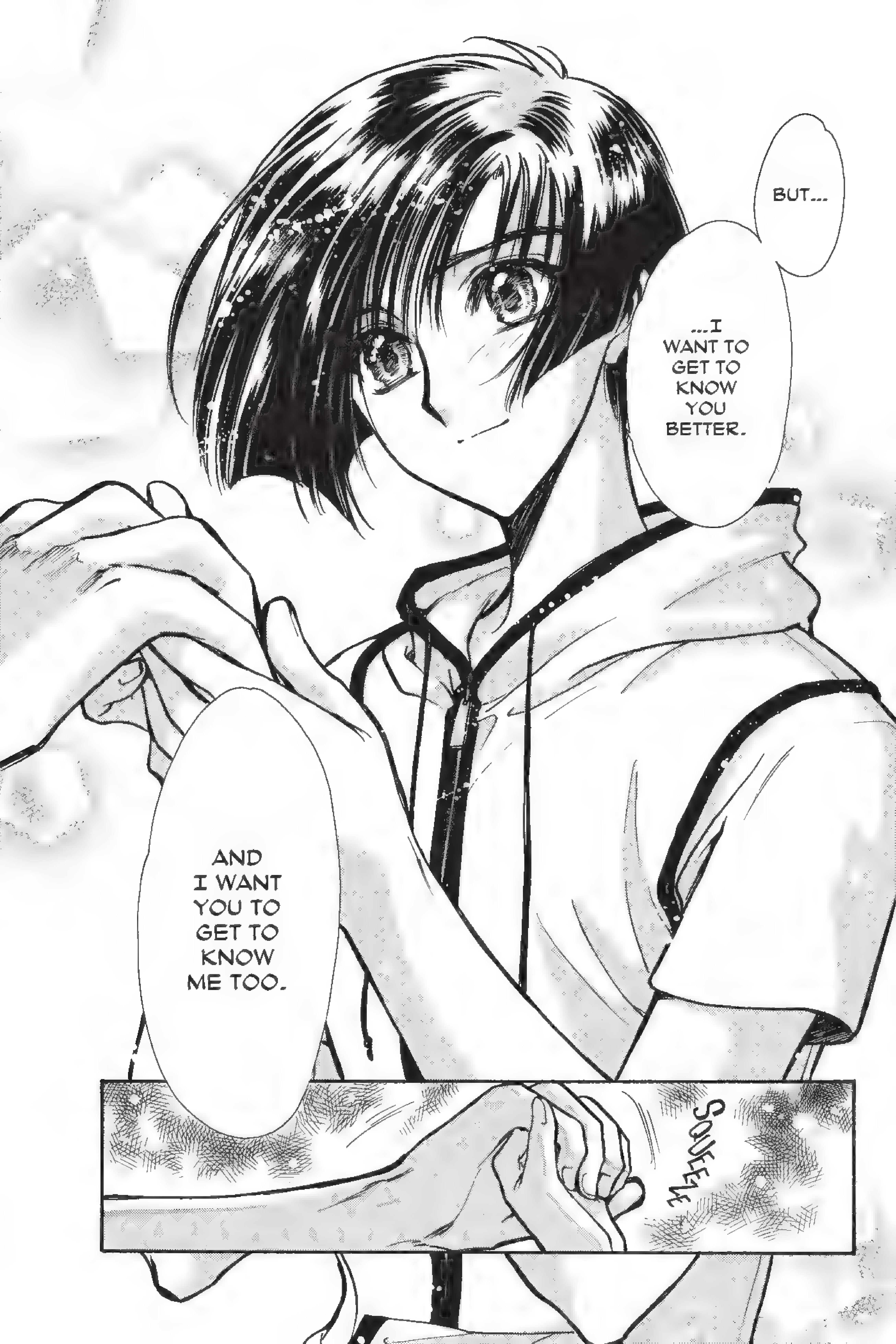

Oh!
I HAVEN'T THANKED YOU FOR THE CLOTHES.
WELL, THERE WAS NO SAVING YOUR UNIFORM.
BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT GIRLS' CLOTHING.
I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE ASKED WHAT YOU LIKE.
WAP WAP
NO, THIS OUTFIT IS GREAT!
I LOVE IT!

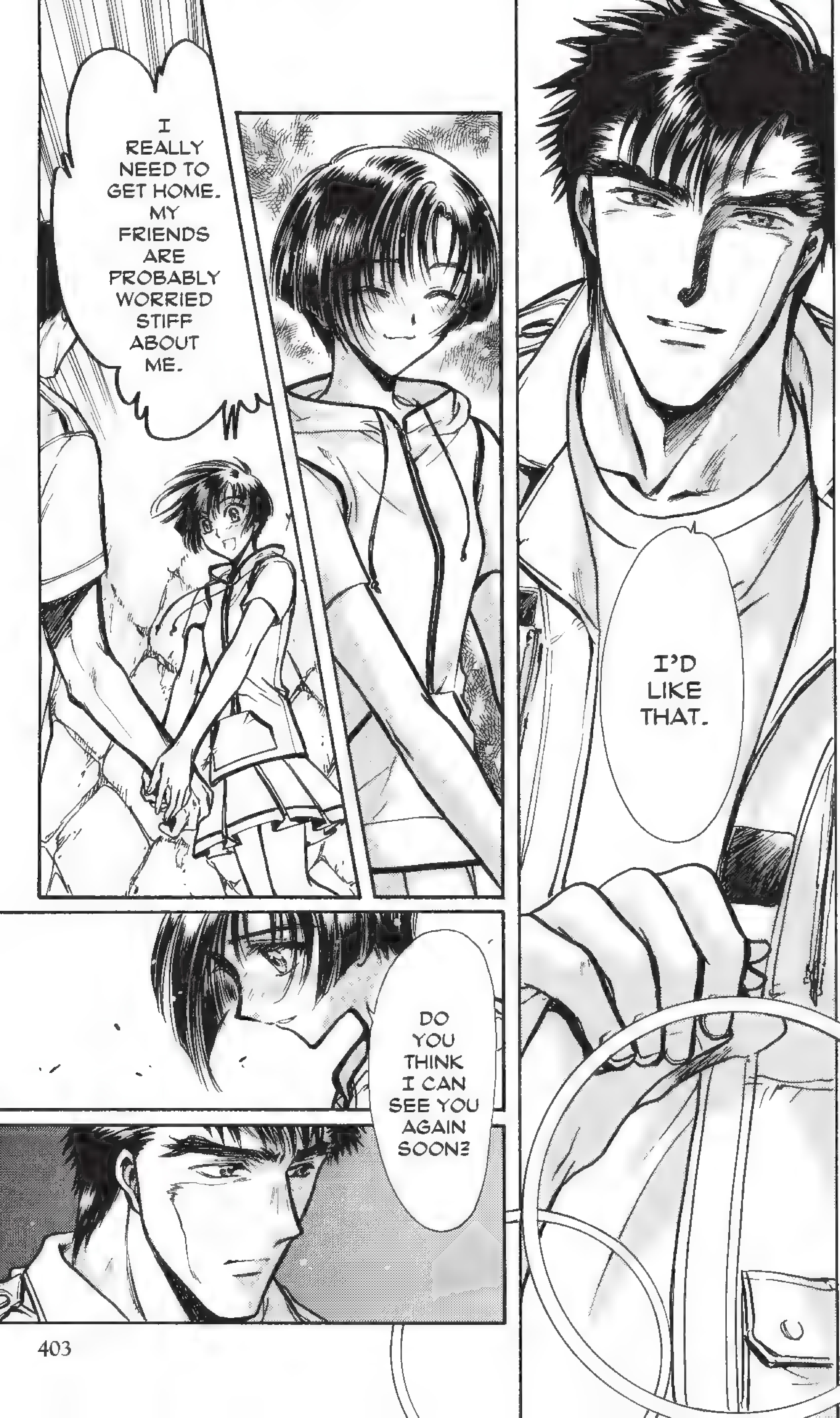

BLUSH
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE... YOU PICKED IT FOR ME.
YOU KNOW, I...

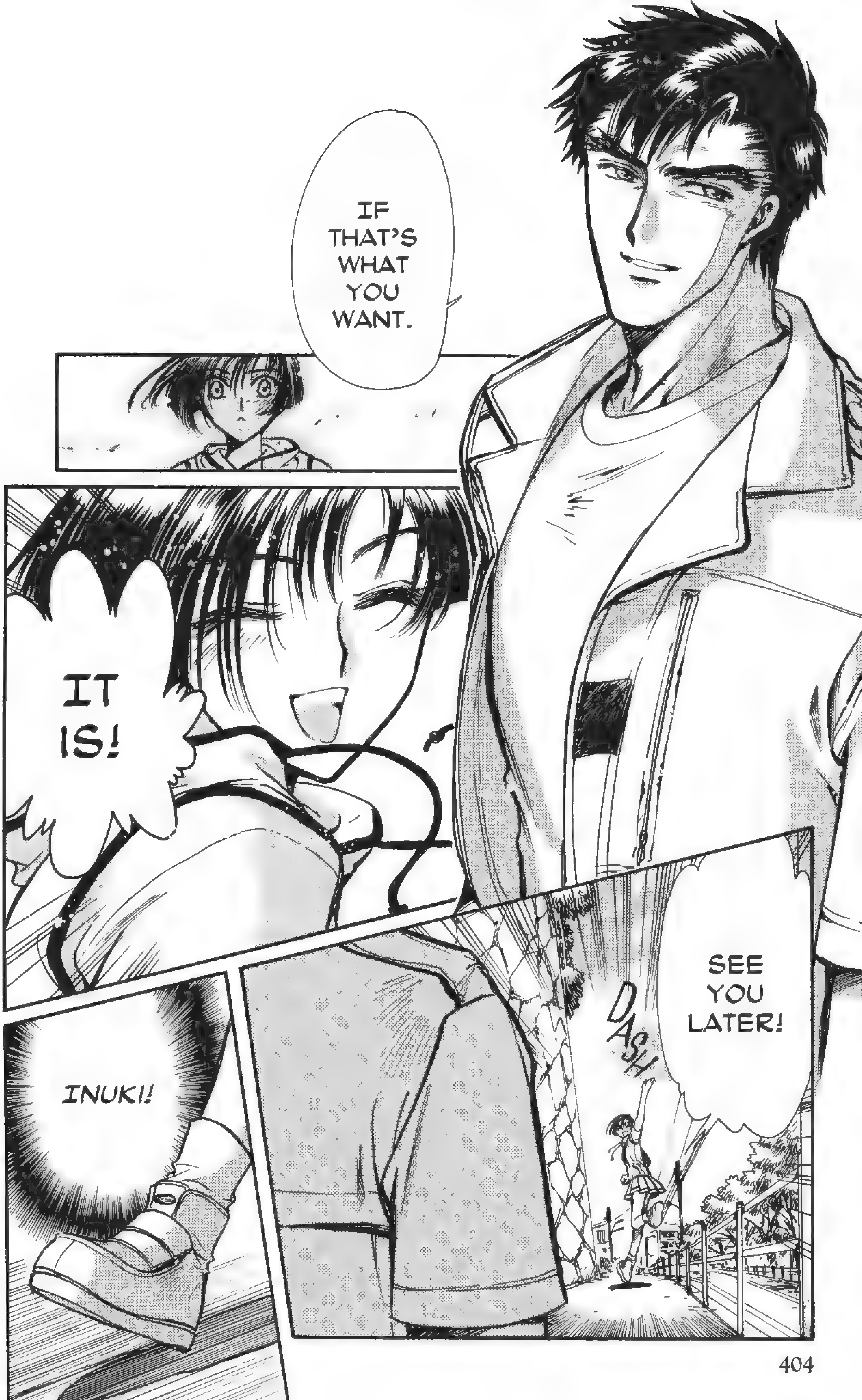

I REALLY DO LOVE YOU.

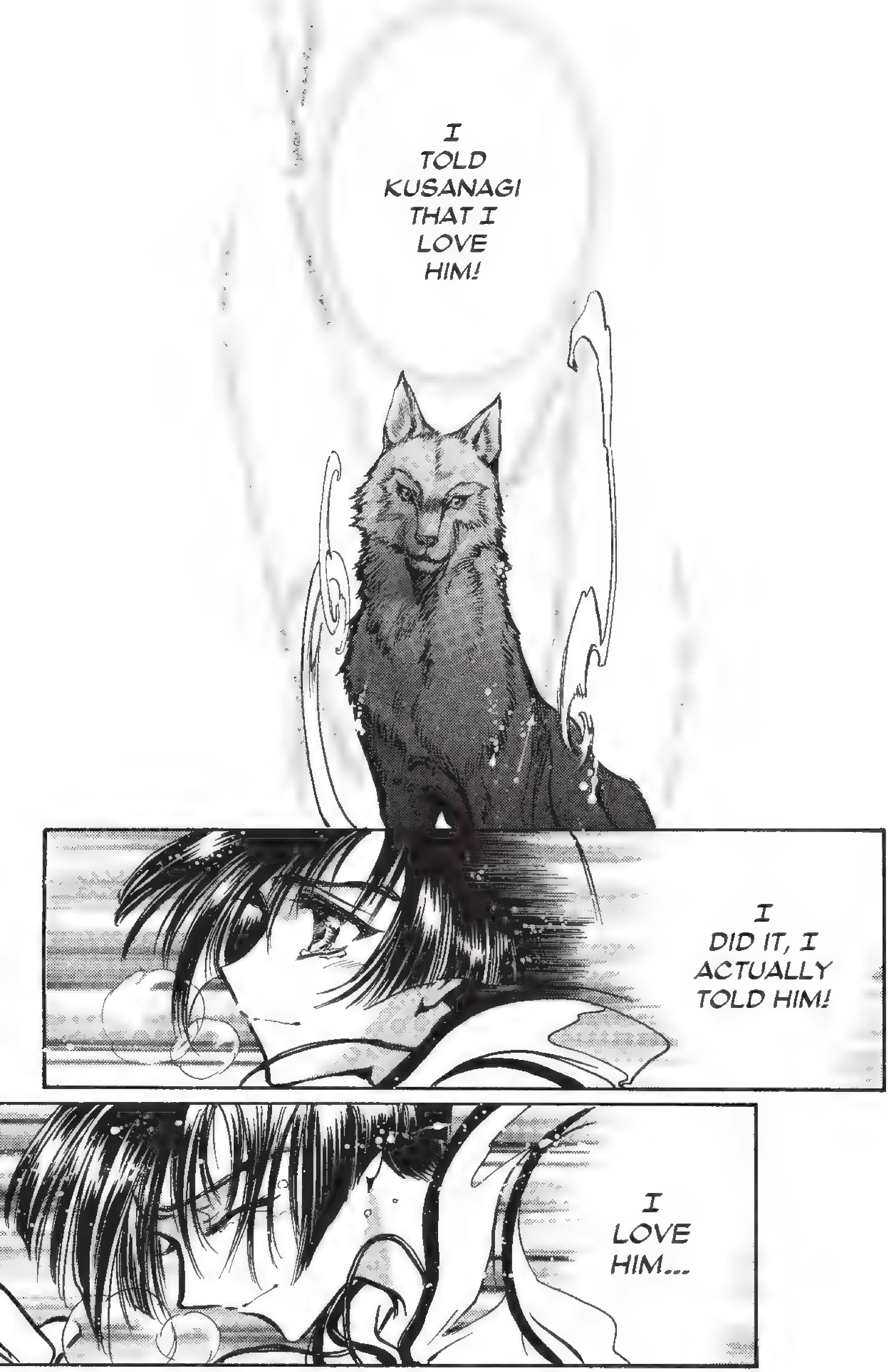

YOU... LOVE ME...?
DO MY FEELINGS MAKE ME...
...A NUISANCE TO YOU?

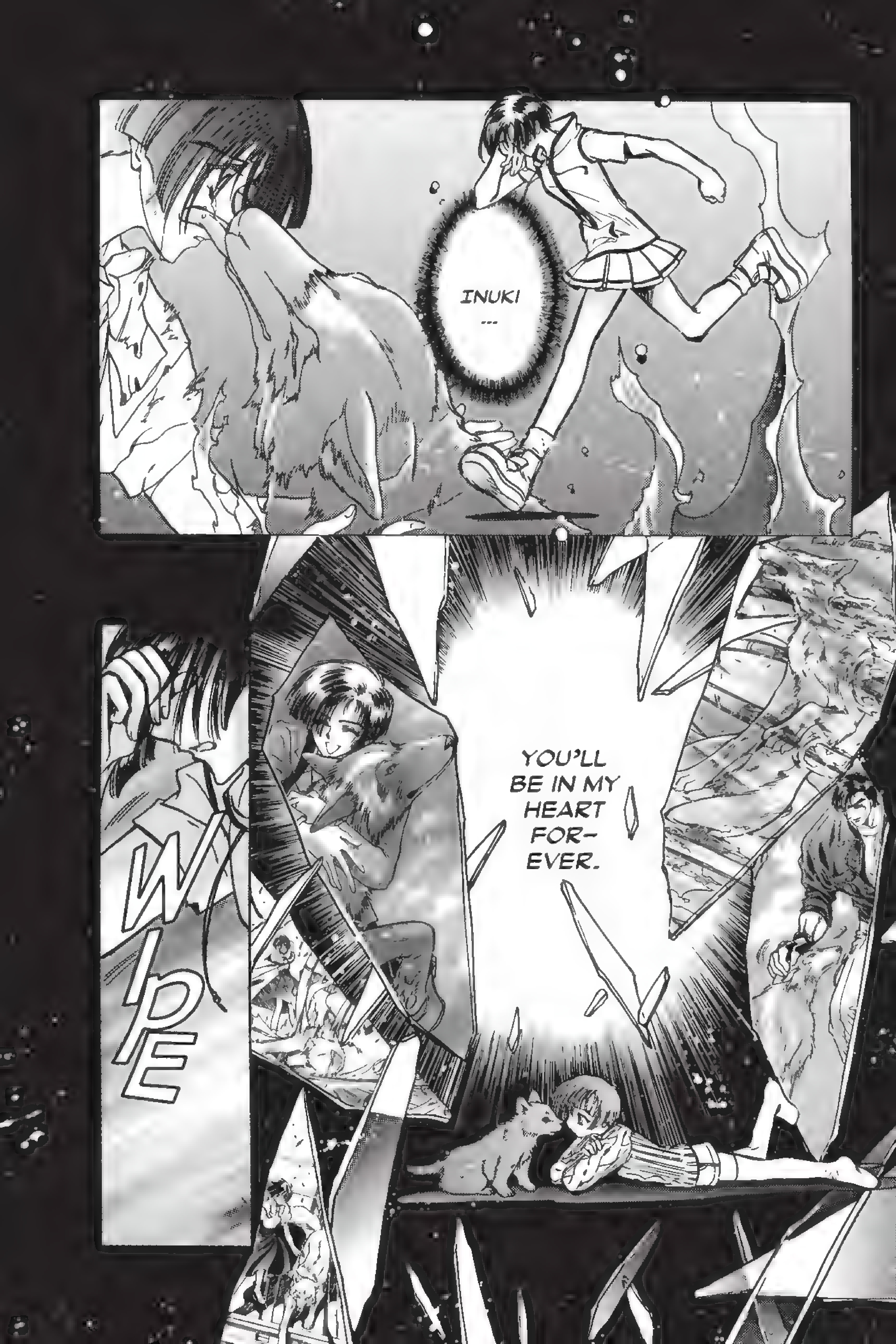

HOW COULD THEY?
HEARING THAT FROM A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU...
...WOULD PUT A SMILE ON ANYONE'S FACE.
I KNOW THAT...
...COMPARED TO YOU...
...I'M STILL A KID.

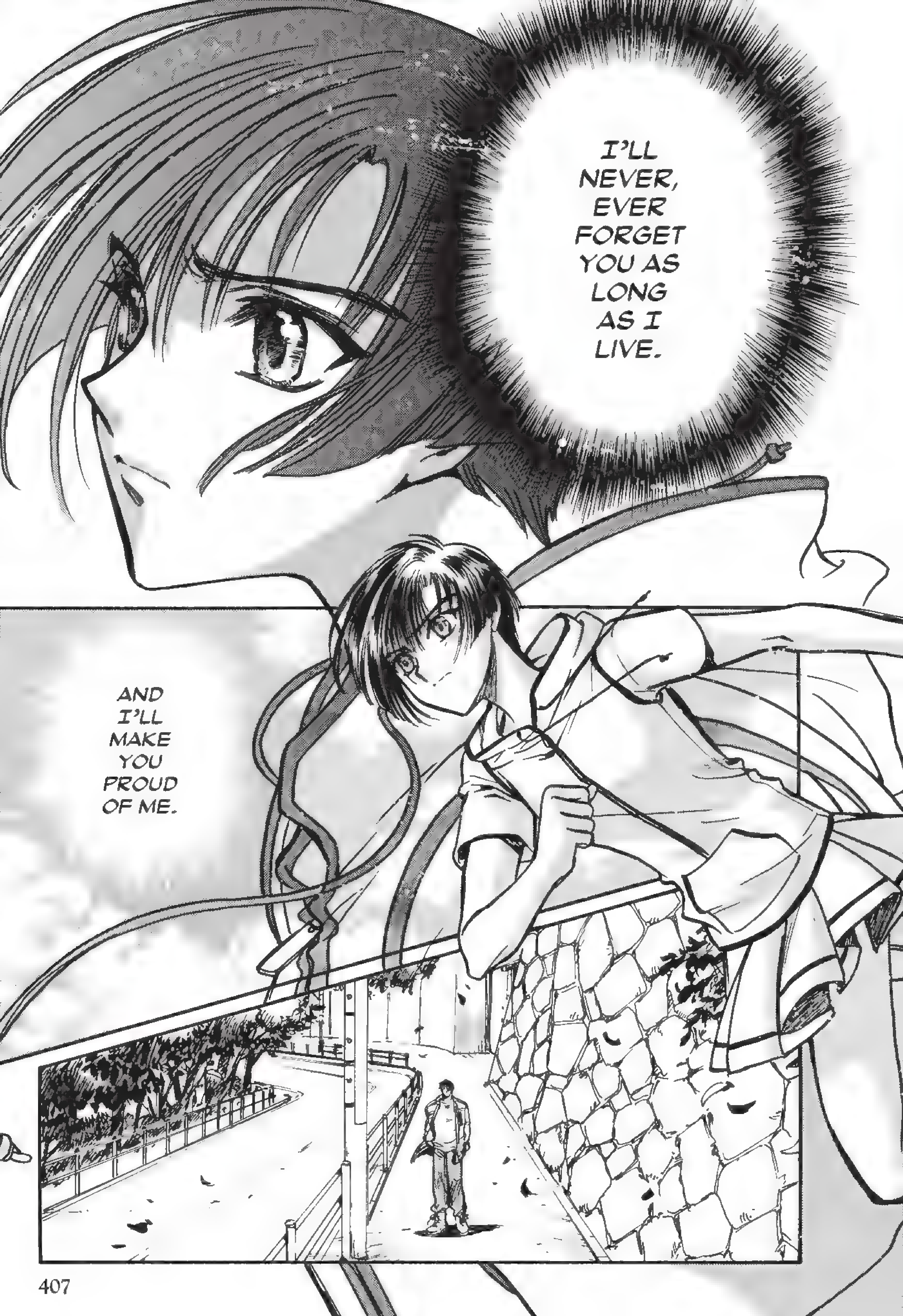

BUT...
...I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.
AND I WANT YOU TO GET TO KNOW ME TOO.
SQUEEZE

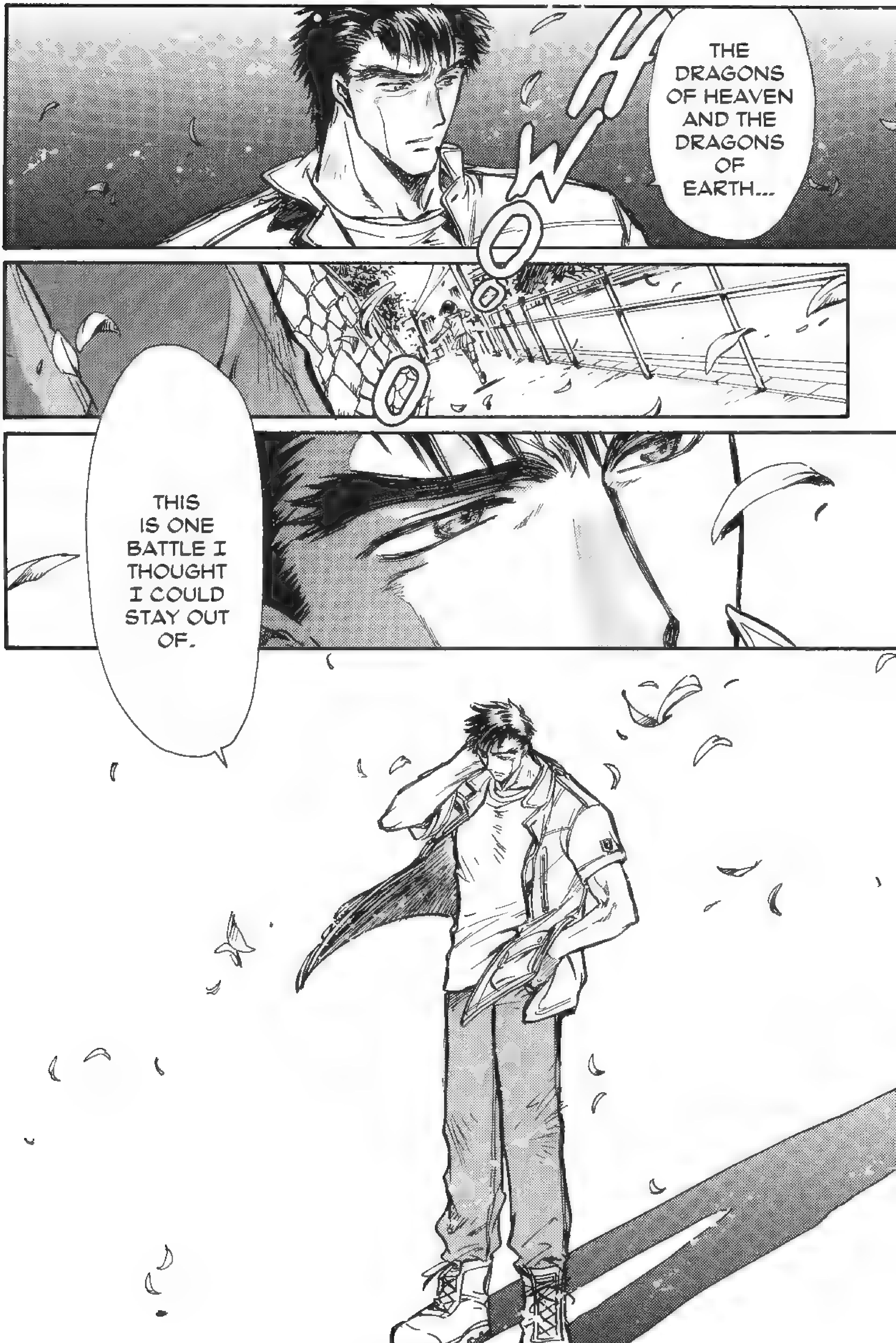

I'D LIKE THAT.
I REALLY NEED TO GET HOME. MY FRIENDS ARE PROBABLY WORRIED STIFF ABOUT ME.
DO YOU THINK I CAN SEE YOU AGAIN SOON?

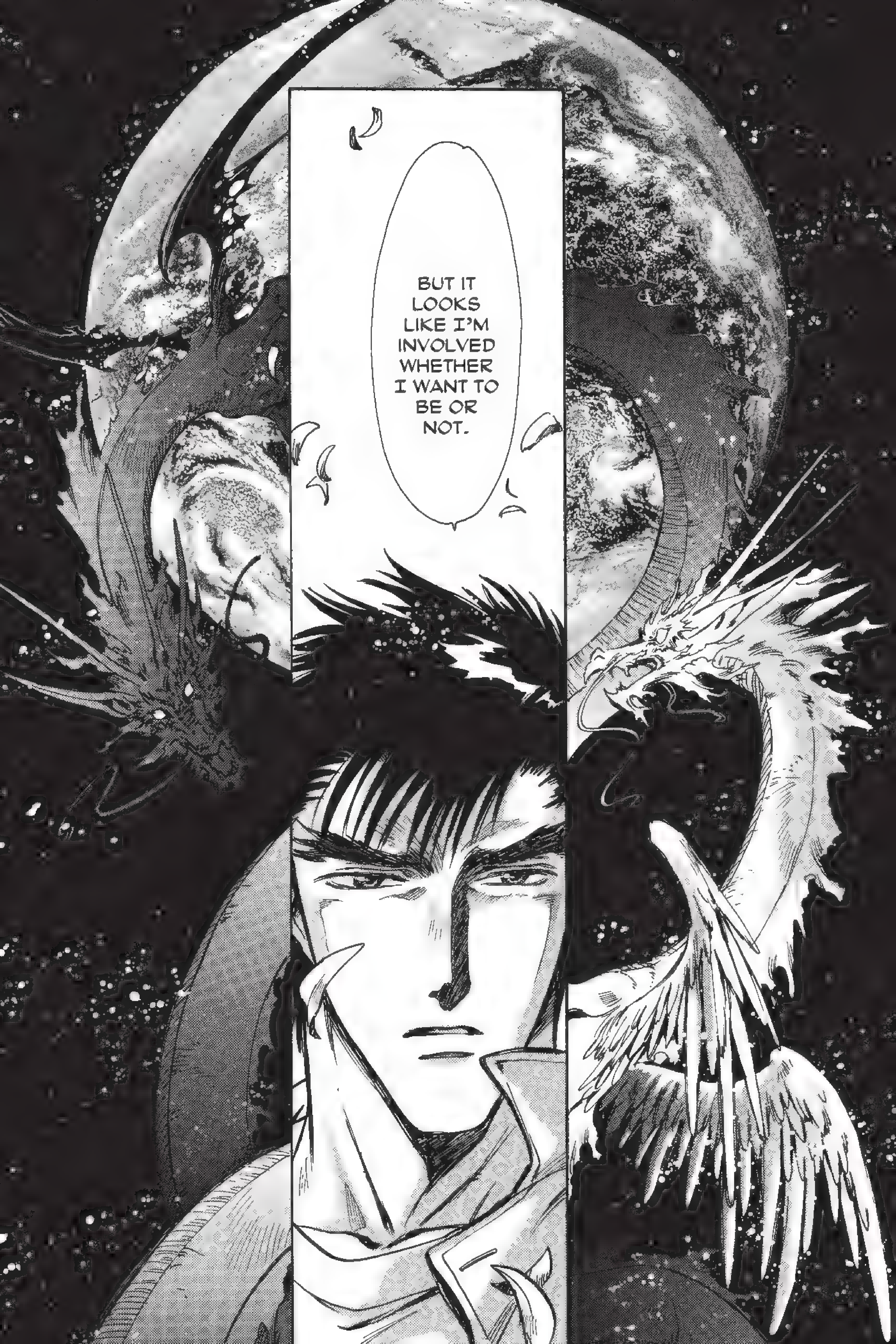

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
IT IS!
SEE YOU LATER!
DASH
INUKI!

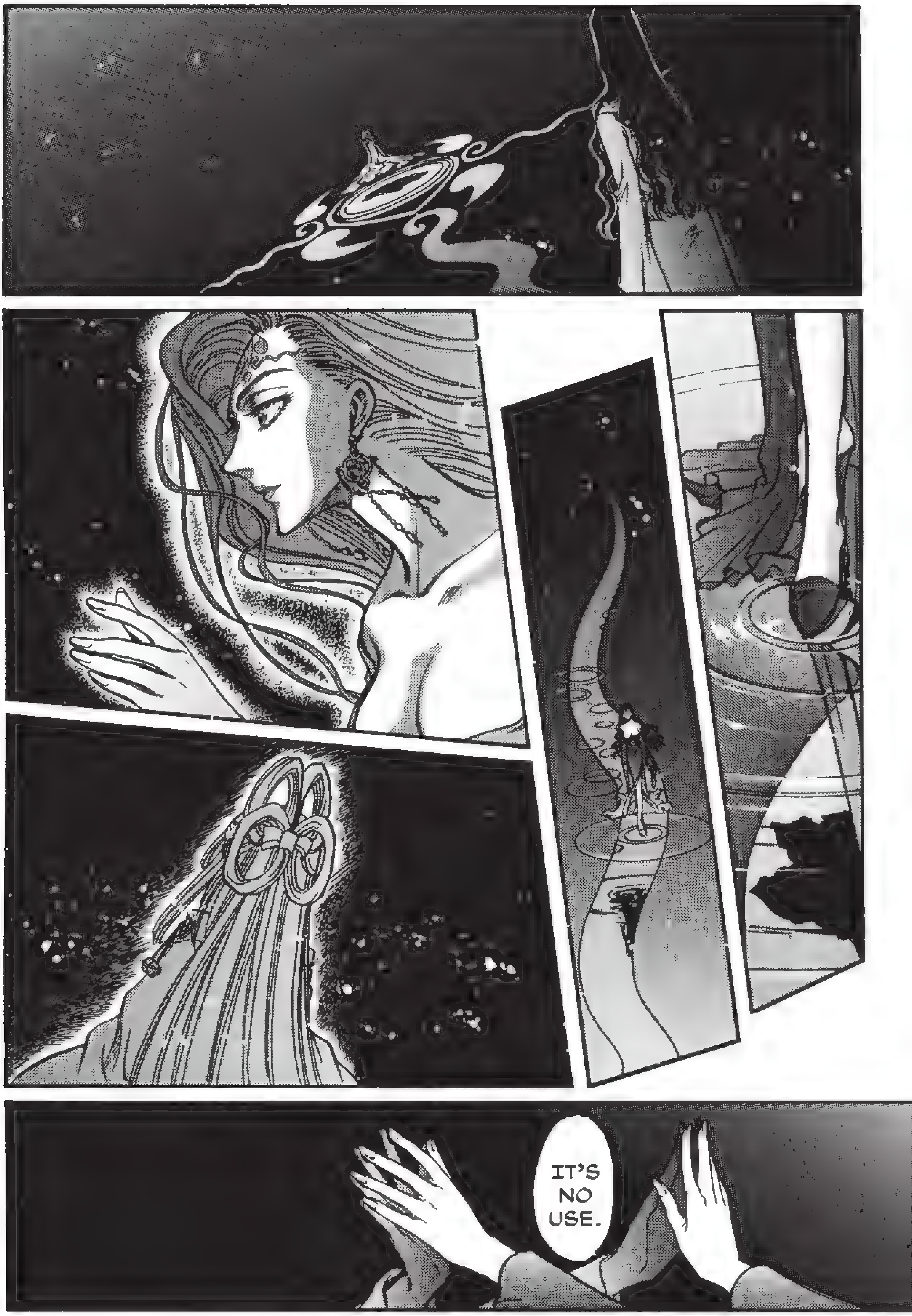

I TOLD KUSANAGI THAT I LOVE HIM!
I DID IT, I ACTUALLY TOLD HIM!
I LOVE HIM...

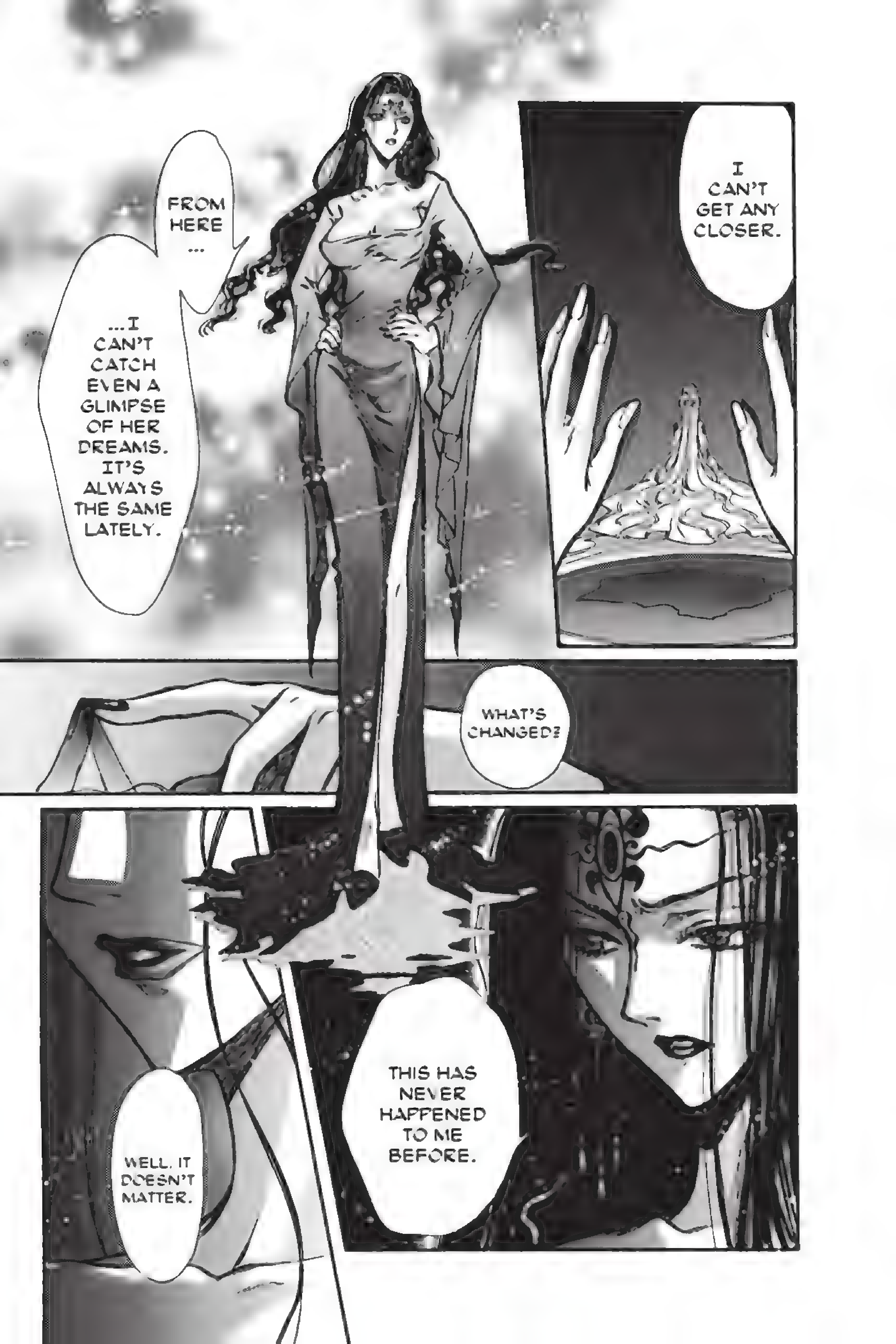

INUKI ...
YOU'LL BE IN MY HEART FOREVER.
WIPE

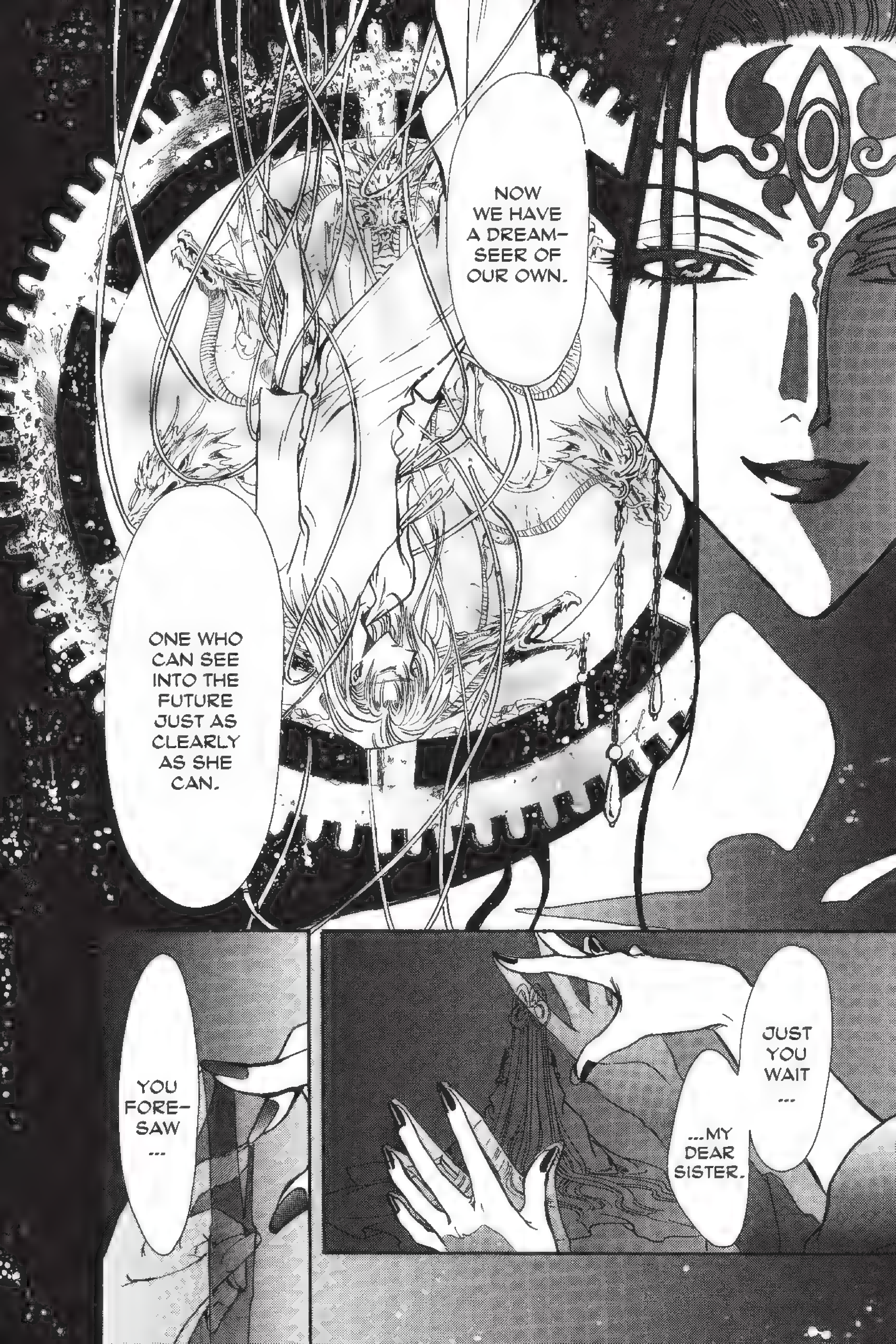

I'LL NEVER, EVER FORGET YOU AS LONG AS I LIVE.
AND I'LL MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME.

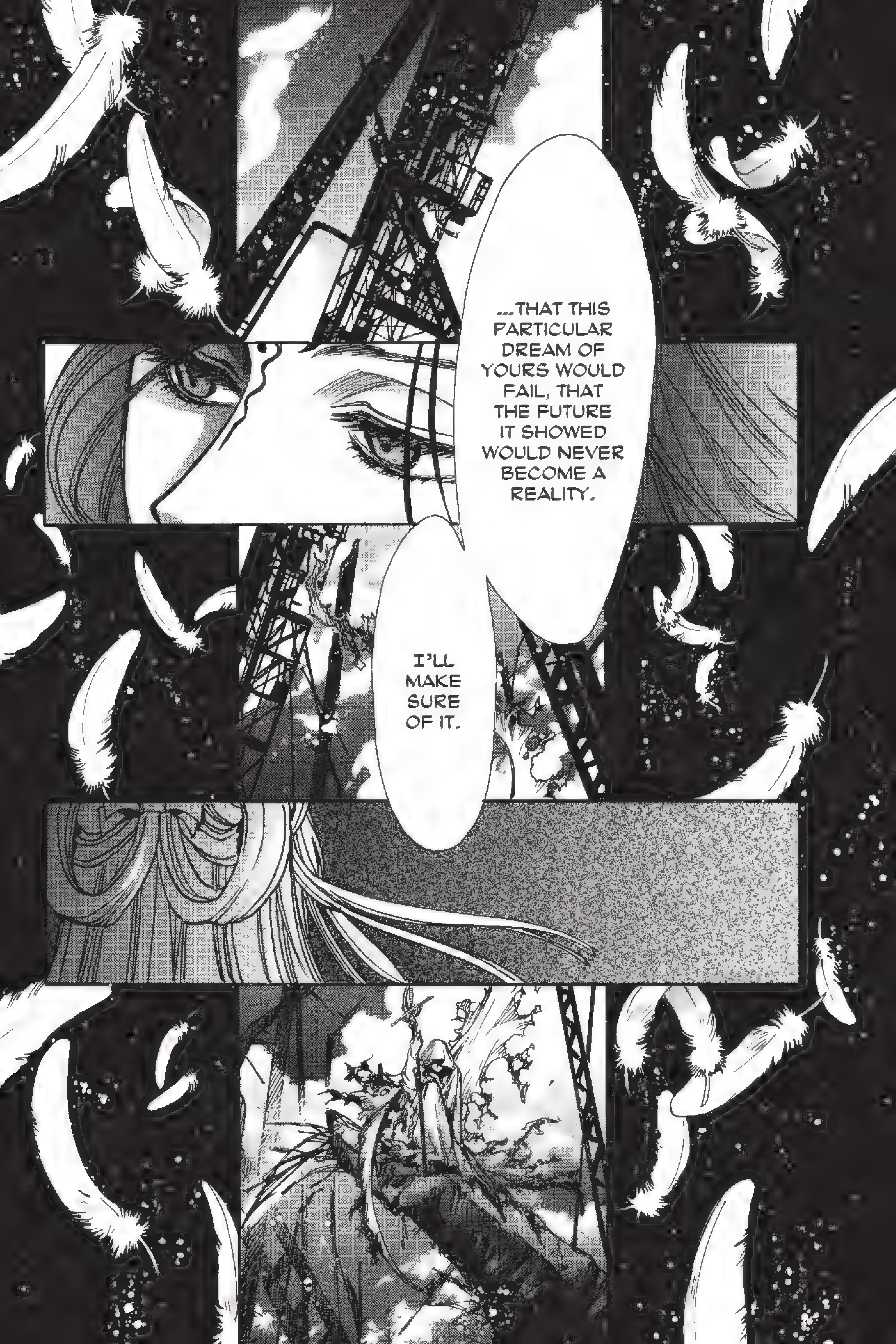

THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN AND THE DRAGONS OF EARTH...
WHOOO
THIS IS ONE BATTLE I THOUGHT I COULD STAY OUT OF.

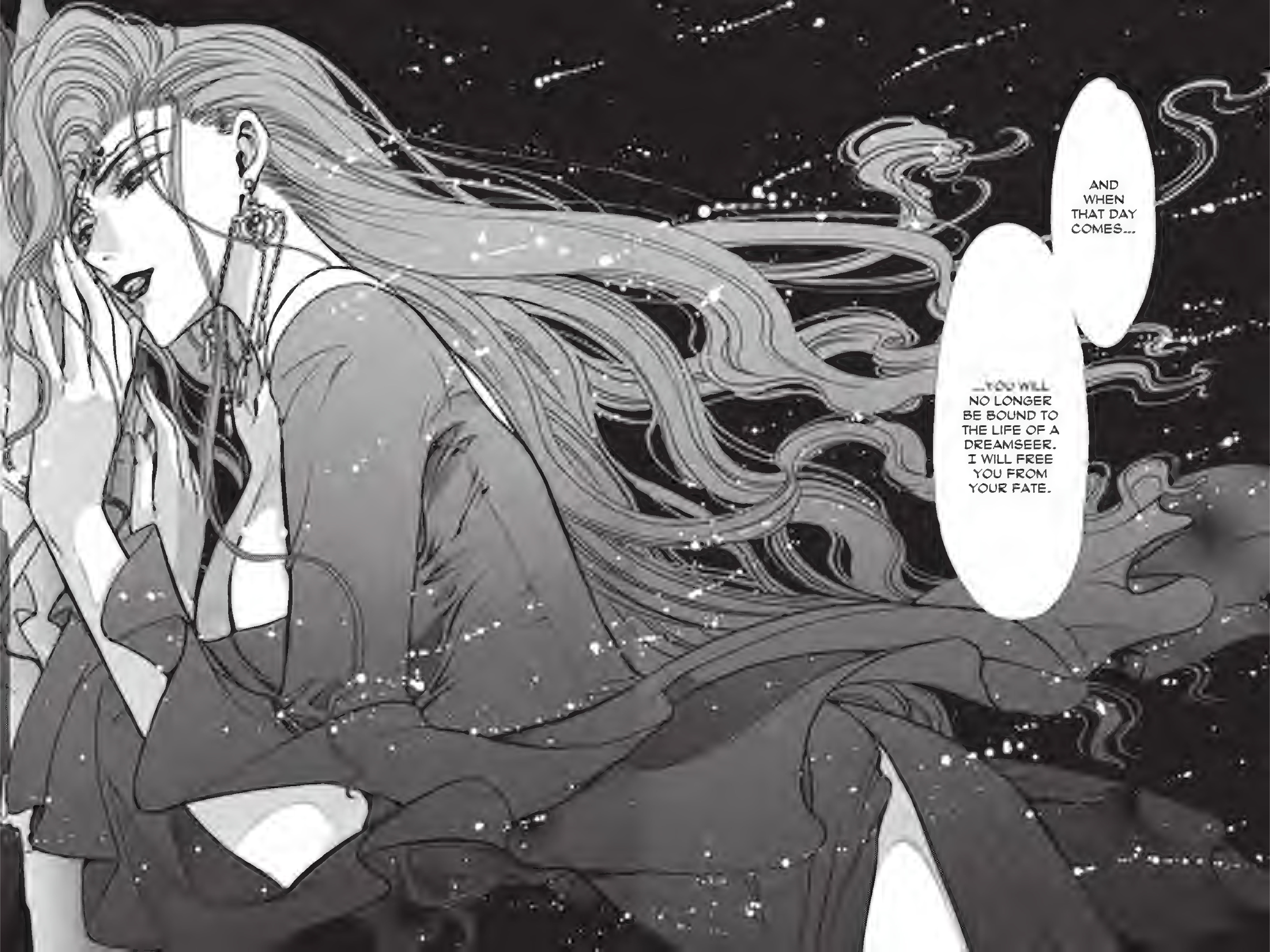

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M INVOLVED WHETHER I WANT TO BE OR NOT.

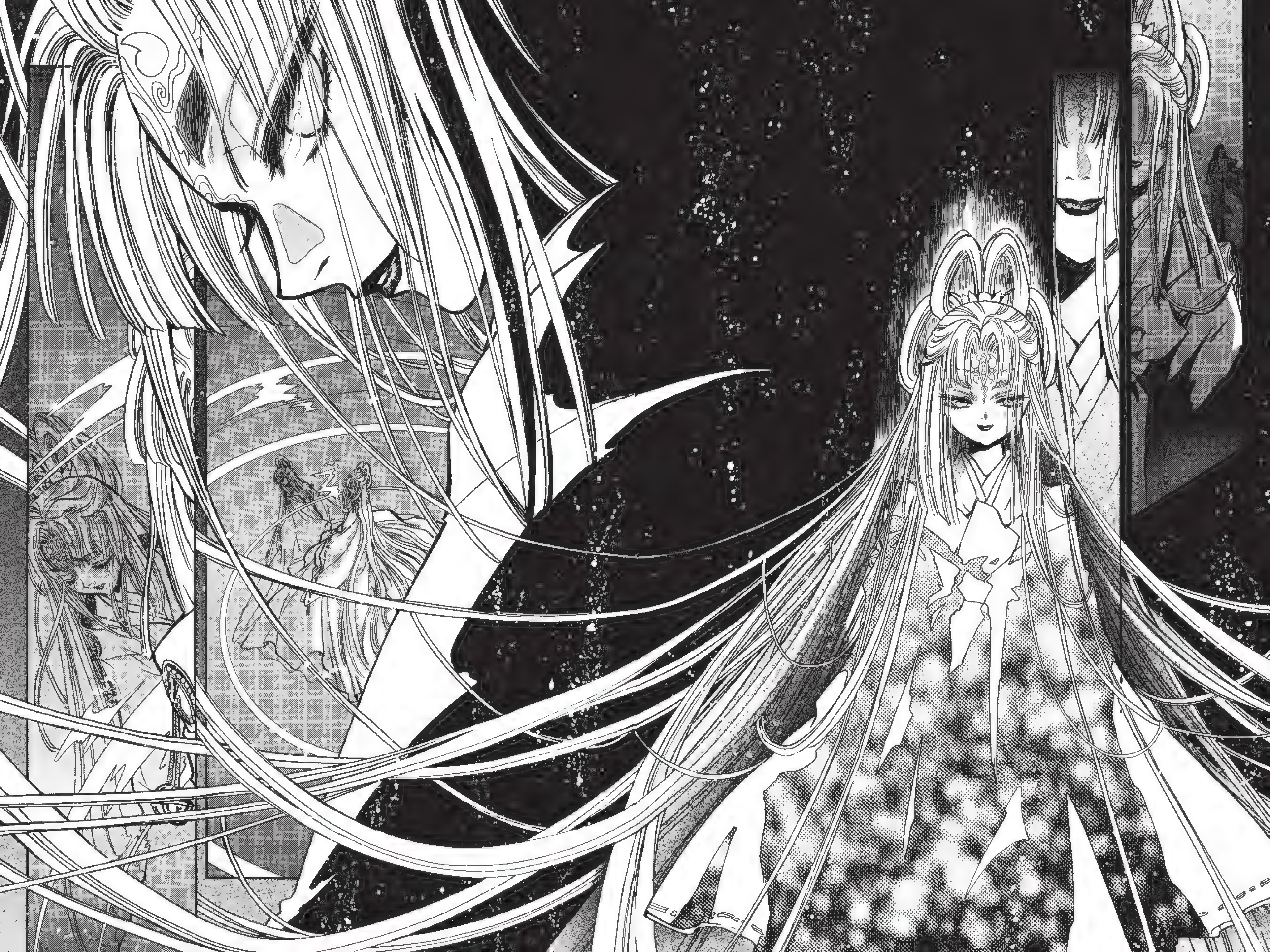

IT'S NO USE.

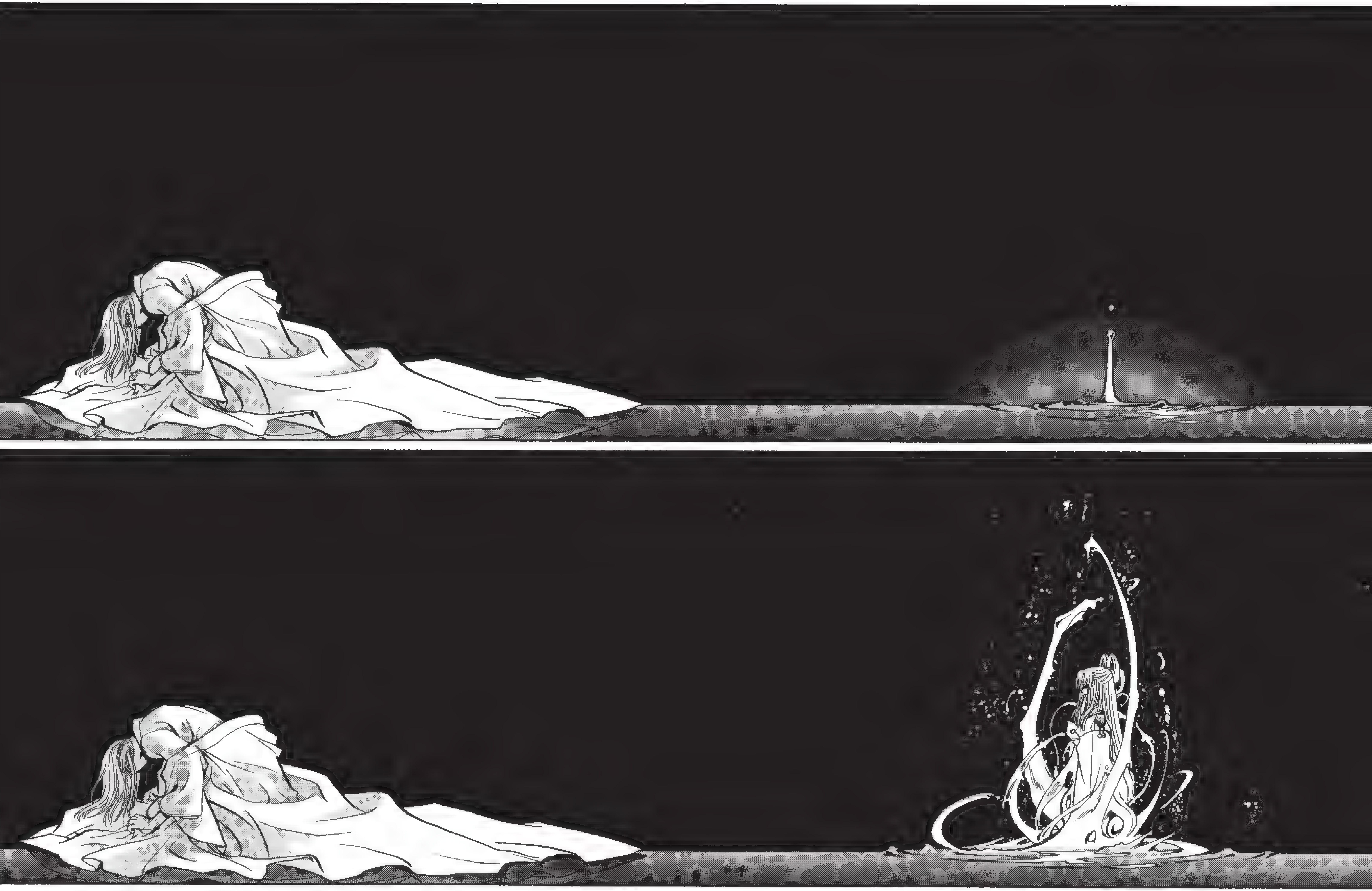

I CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER.
FROM HERE ...
...I CAN'T CATCH EVEN A GLIMPSE OF HER DREAMS. IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME LATELY.
WHAT'S CHANGED?
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE.
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

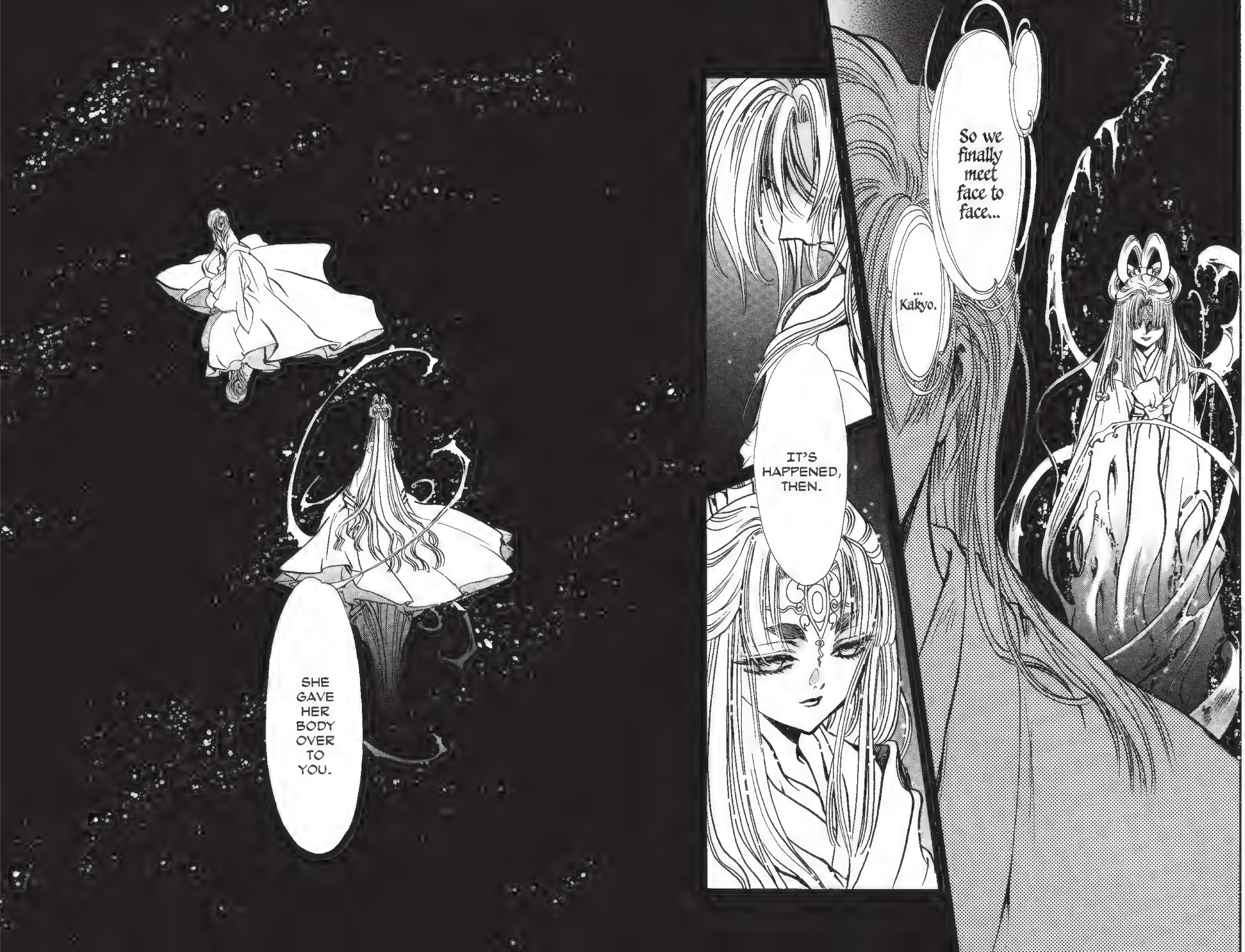

NOW WE HAVE A DREAM-SEER OF OUR OWN.
ONE WHO CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE JUST AS CLEARLY AS SHE CAN.
JUST YOU WAIT...
...MY DEAR SISTER.
YOU FORESAW...

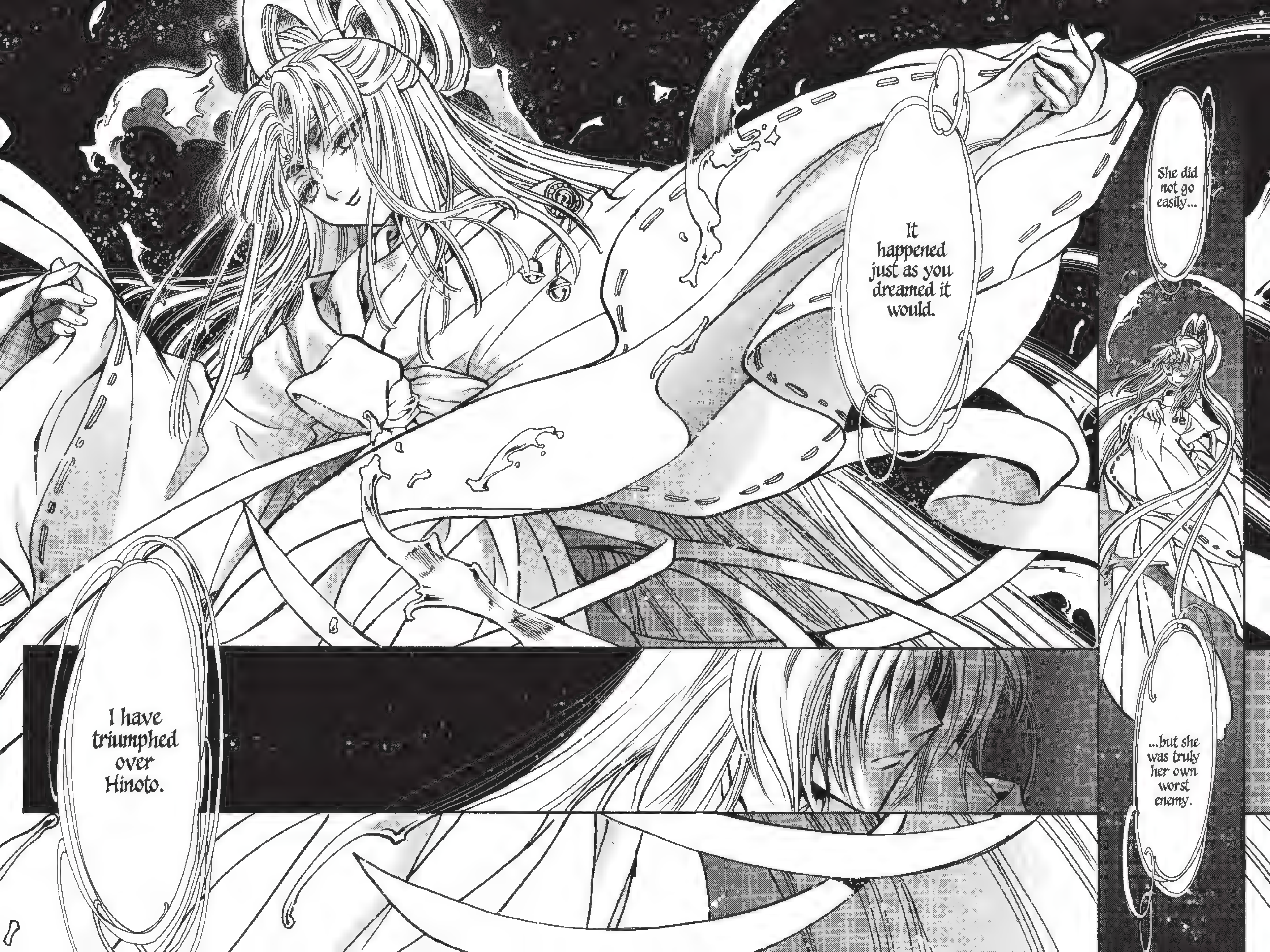

...THAT THIS PARTICULAR DREAM OF YOURS WOULD FAIL, THAT THE FUTURE IT SHOWED WOULD NEVER BECOME A REALITY.
I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT.

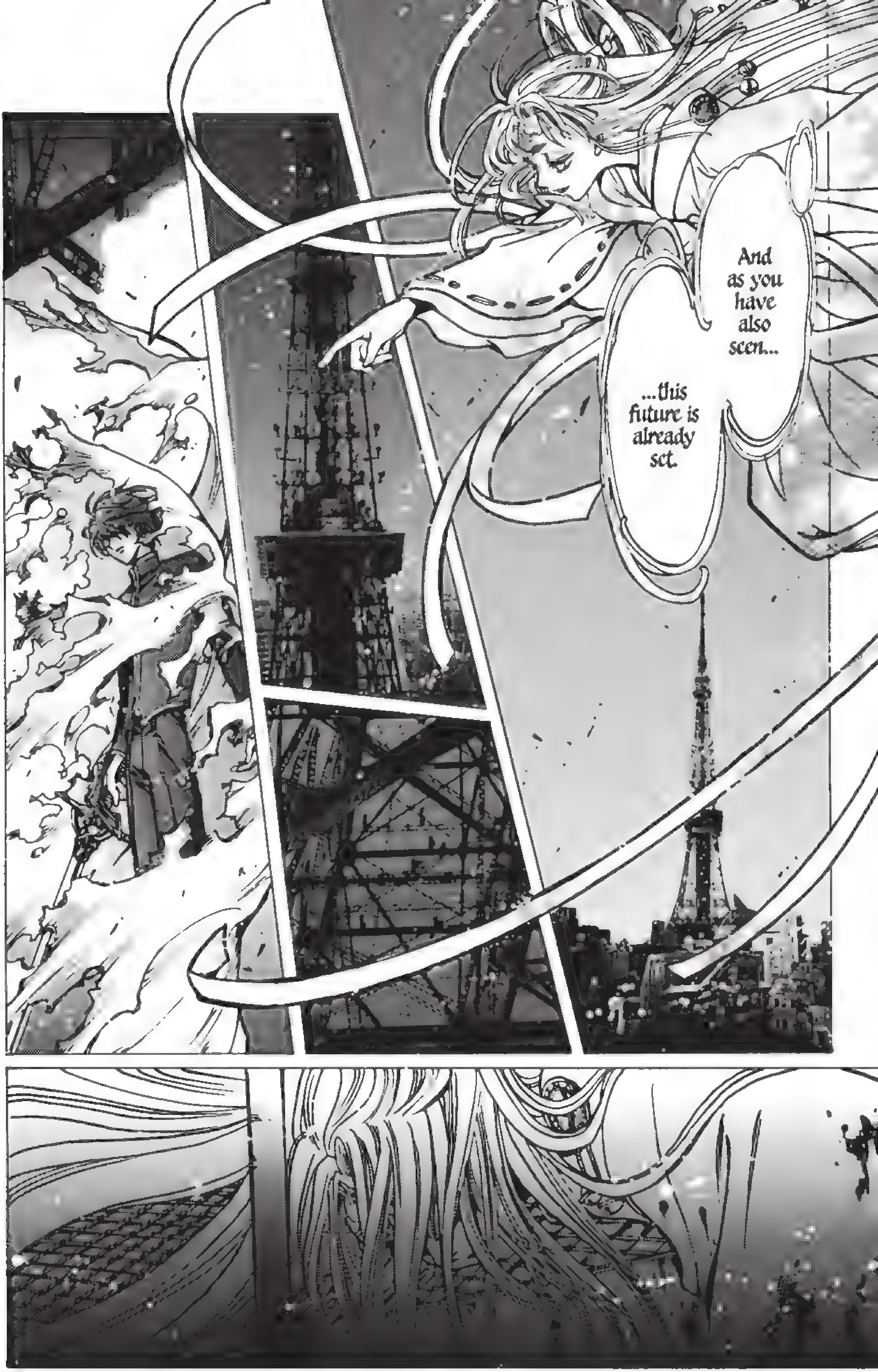

AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES...
...YOU WILL NO LONGER BE BOUND TO THE LIFE OF A DREAMSEER. I WILL FREE YOU FROM YOUR FATE.

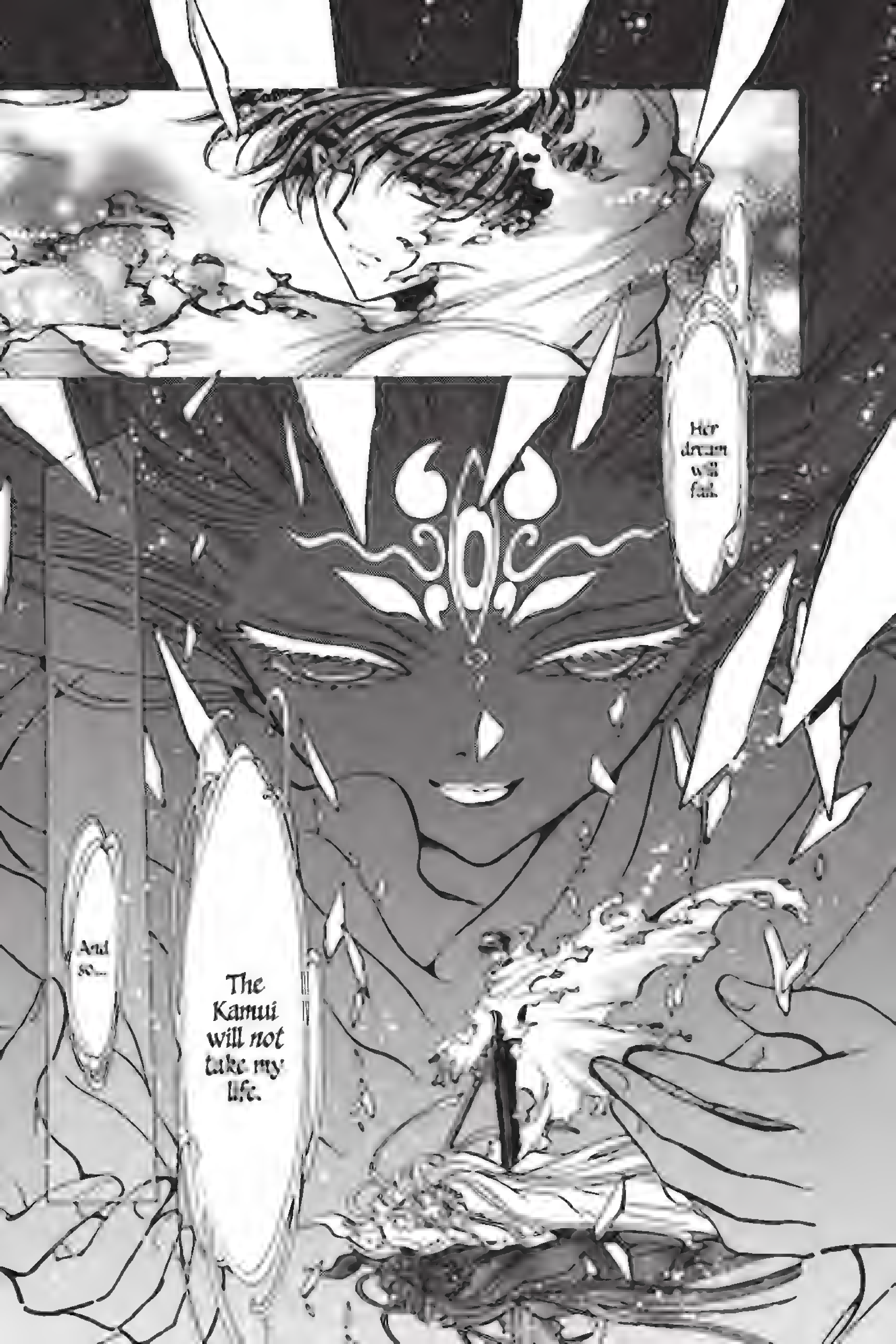


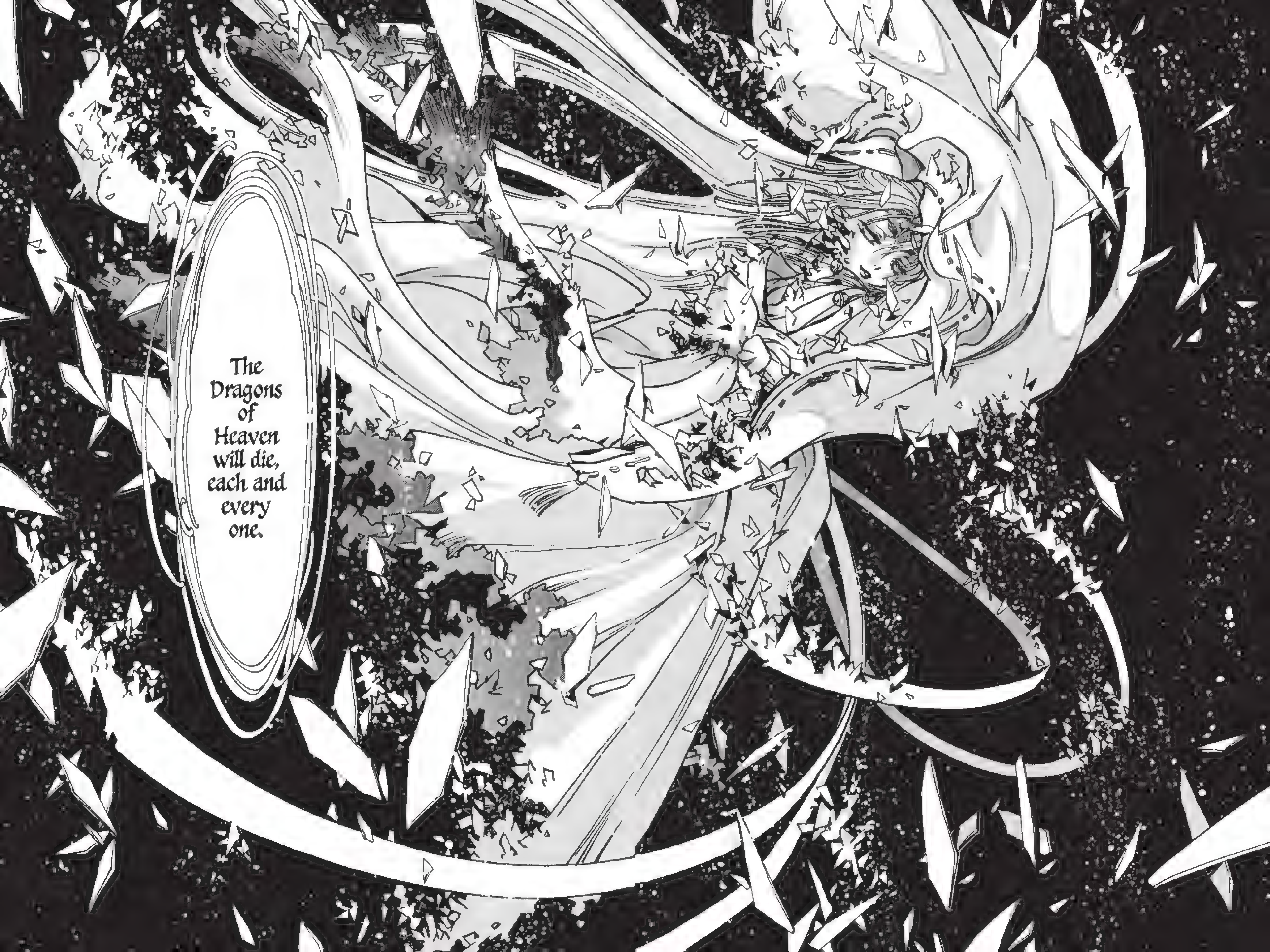


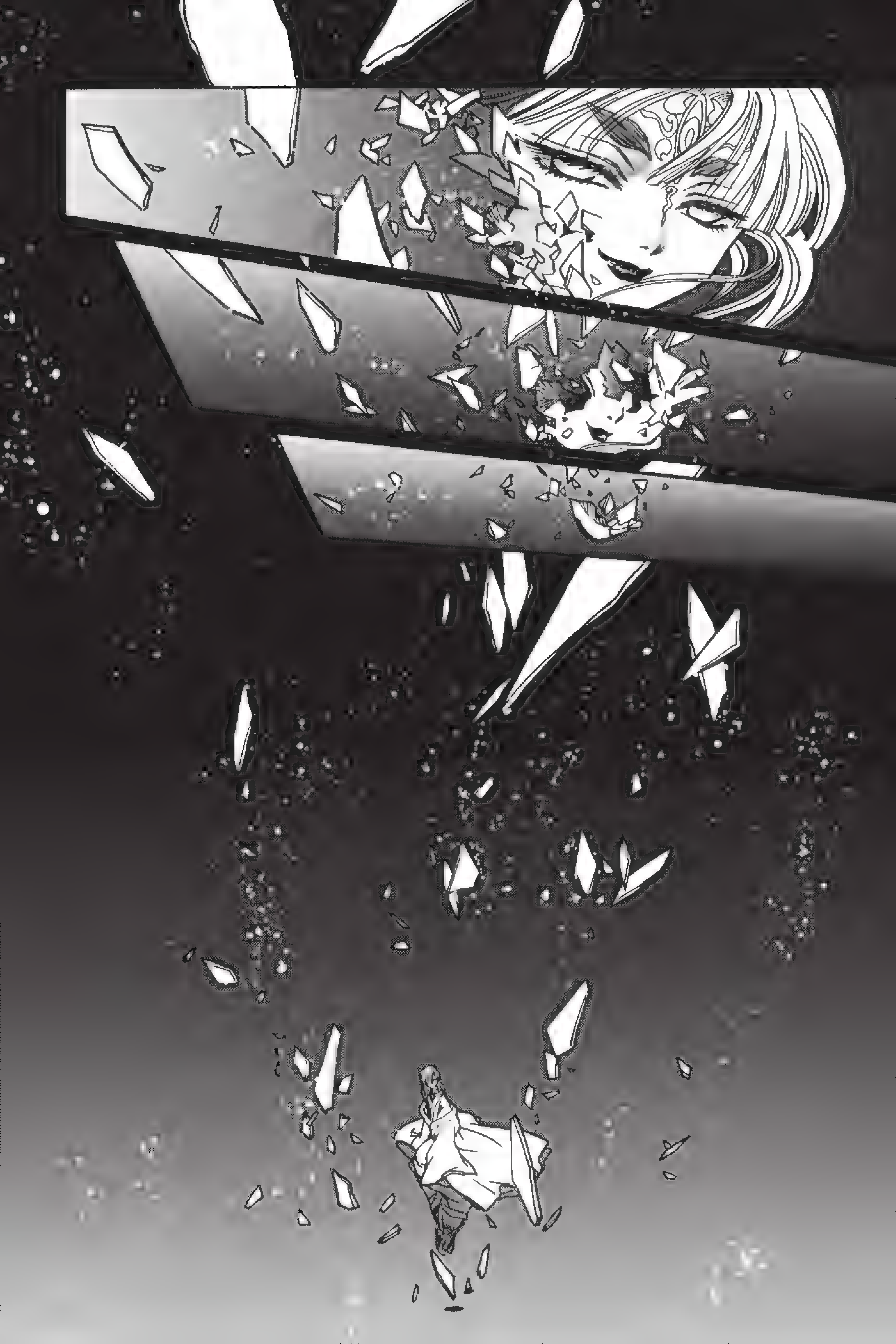

So we finally meet face to face...
...Kakyo.
IT'S HAPPENED, THEN.
SHE GAVE HER BODY OVER TO YOU.

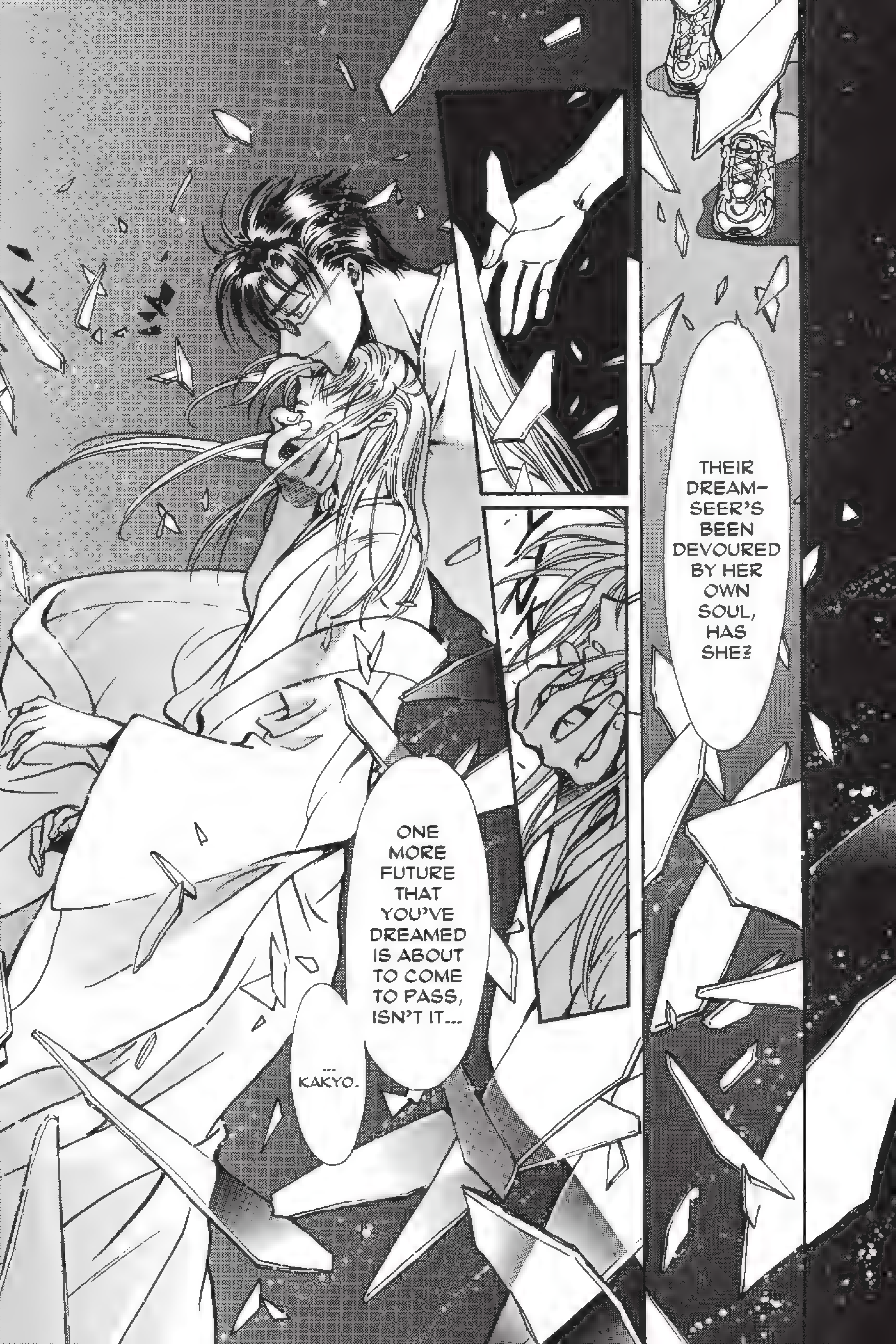

She did not go easily...
...but she was truly her own worst enemy.
It happened just as you dreamed it would.
I have triumphed over Hinoto.

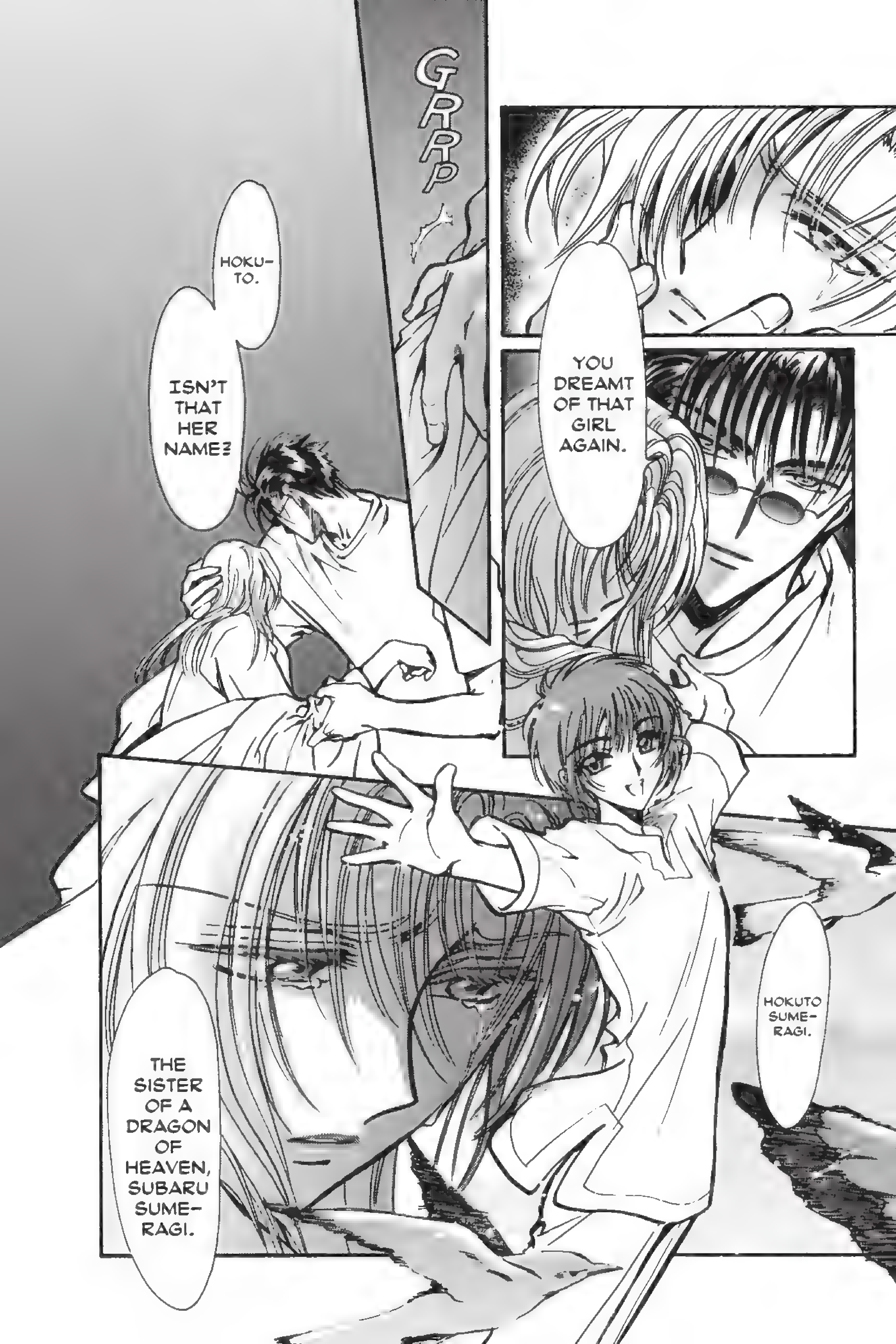

And as you have also seen...
...this future is already set.

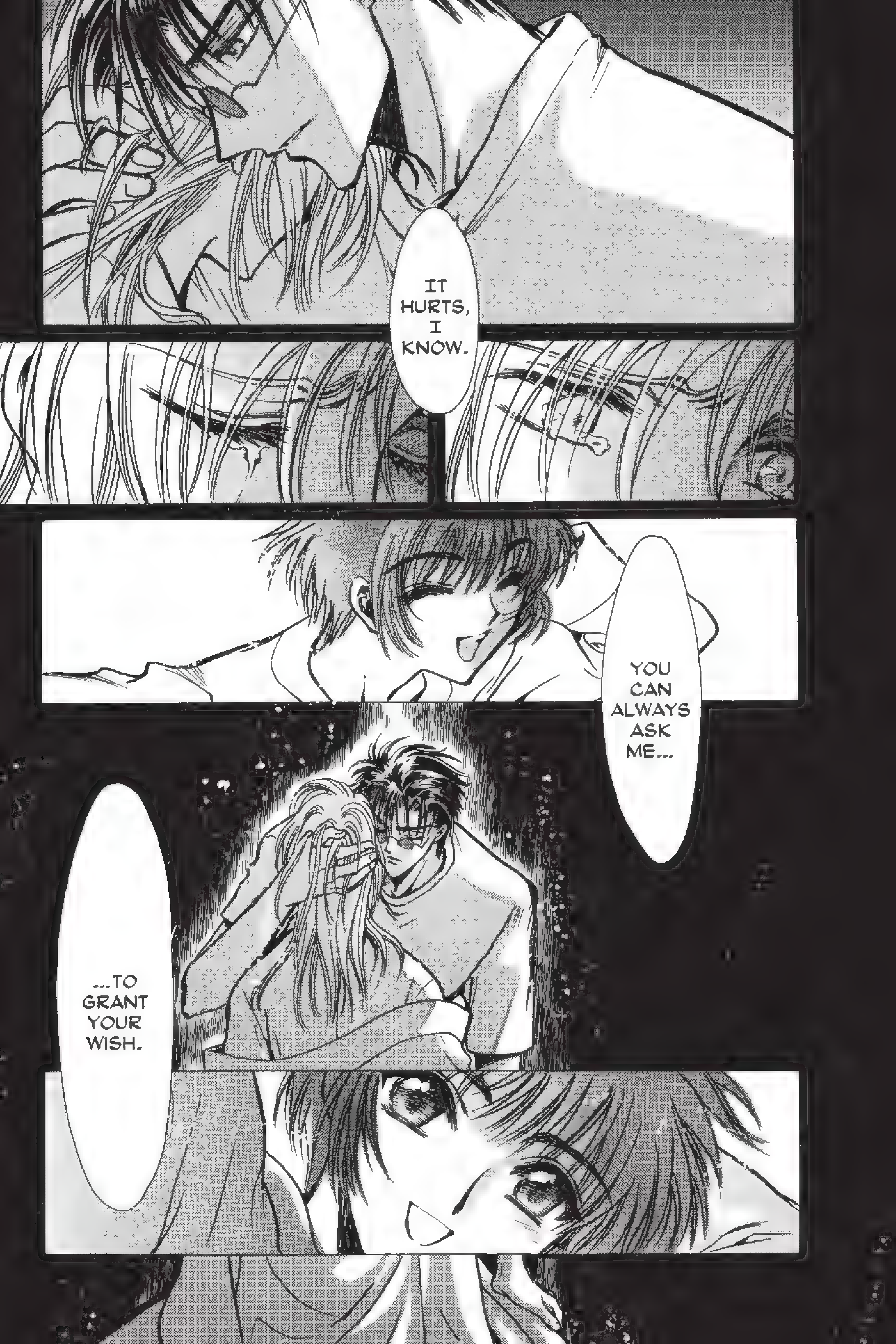

Her dream will fail.
And so...
The Kamui will *not* take my life.

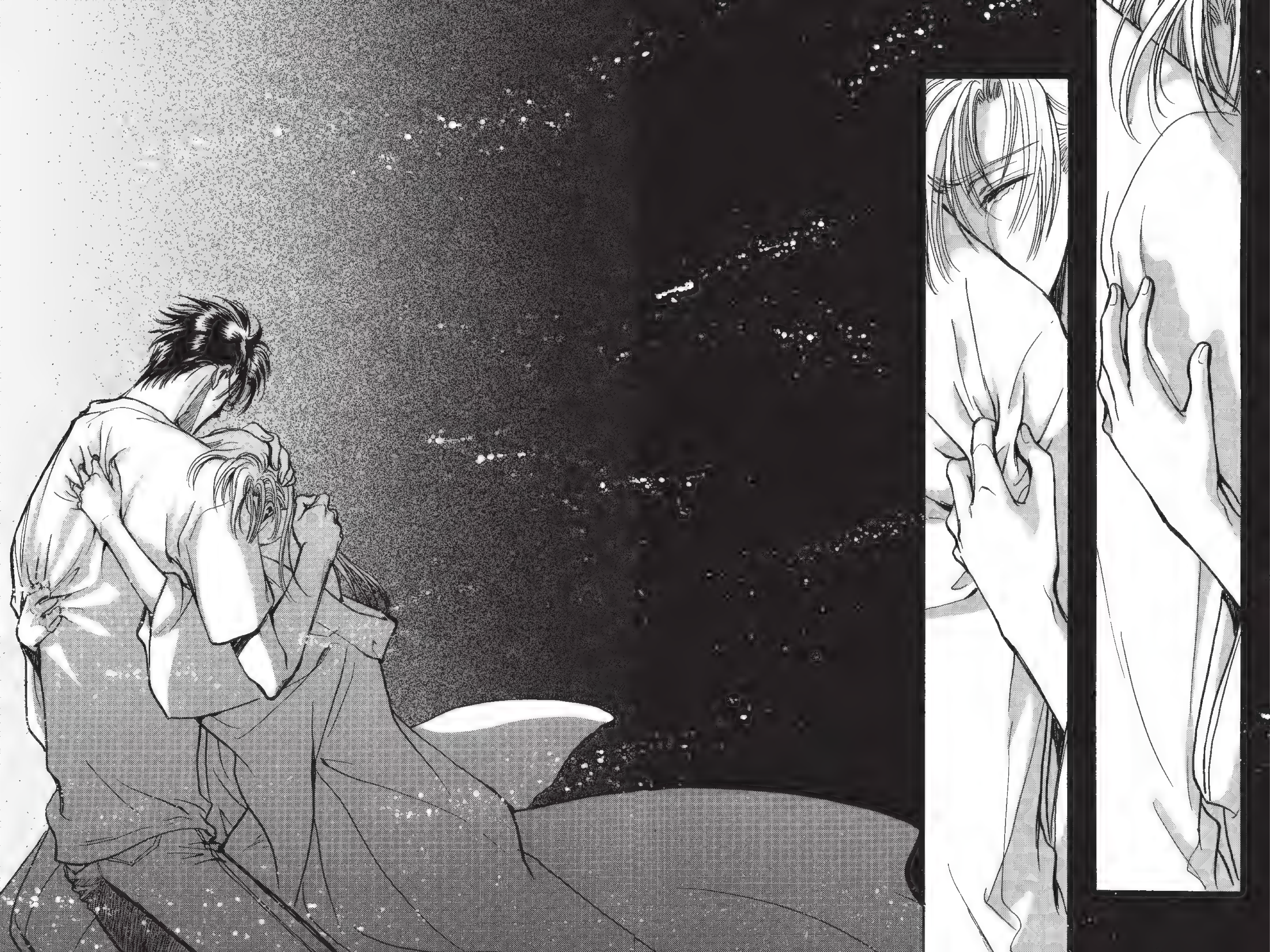

The Dragons of Heaven will die, each and every one.

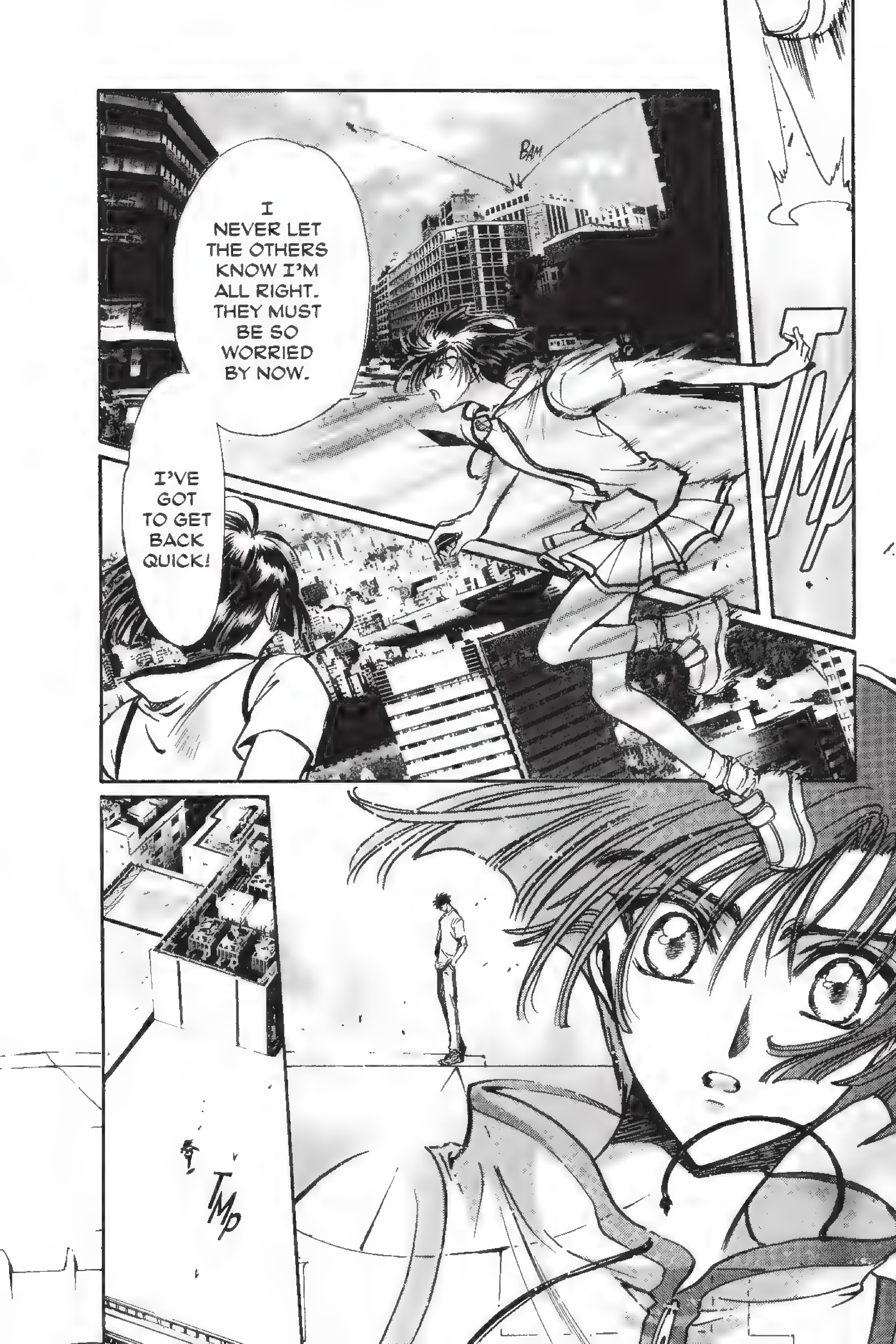


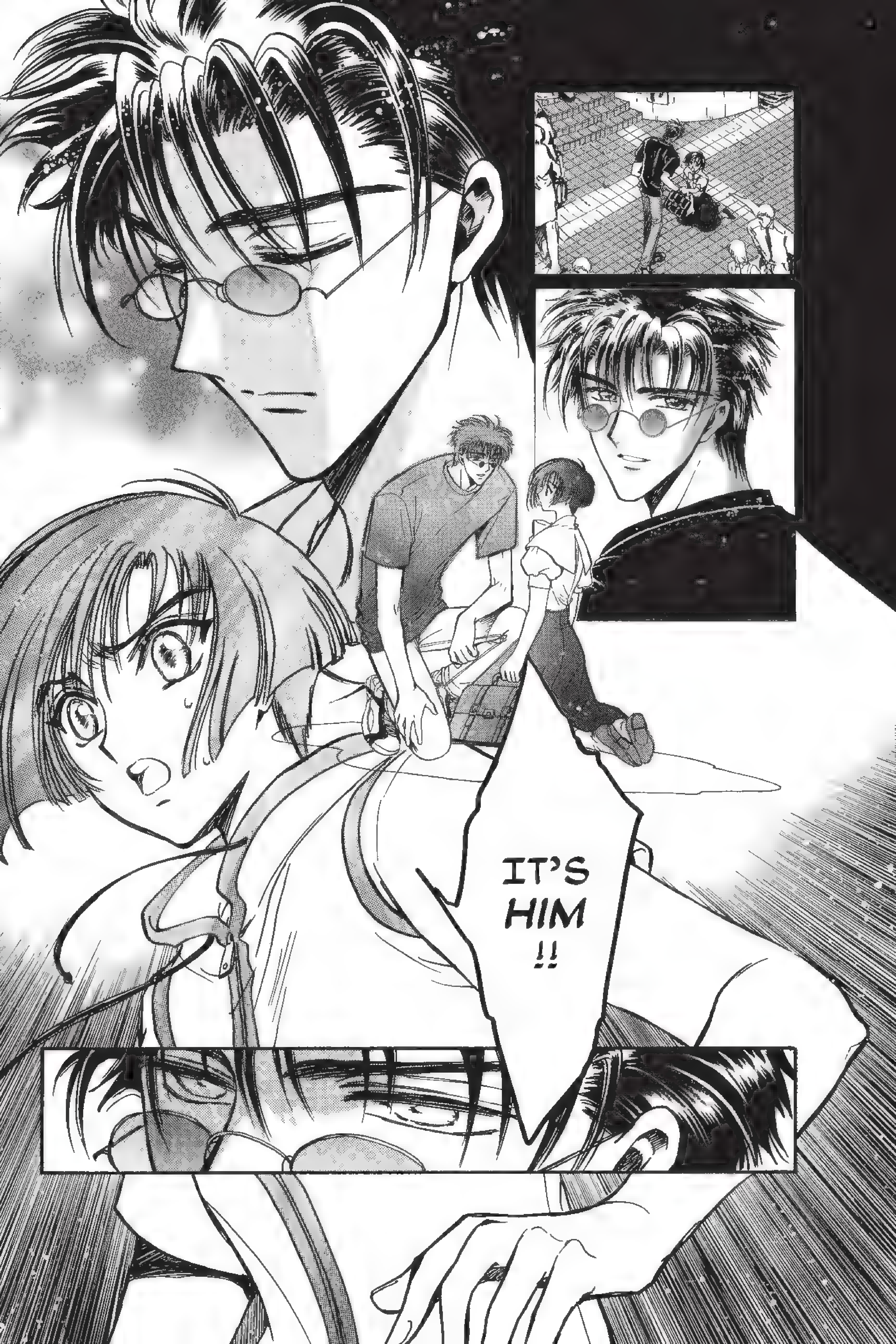

THEIR DREAM-SEER'S BEEN DEVOURED BY HER OWN SOUL, HAS SHE?
ONE MORE FUTURE THAT YOU'VE DREAMED IS ABOUT TO COME TO PASS, ISN'T IT...
...KAKYO.

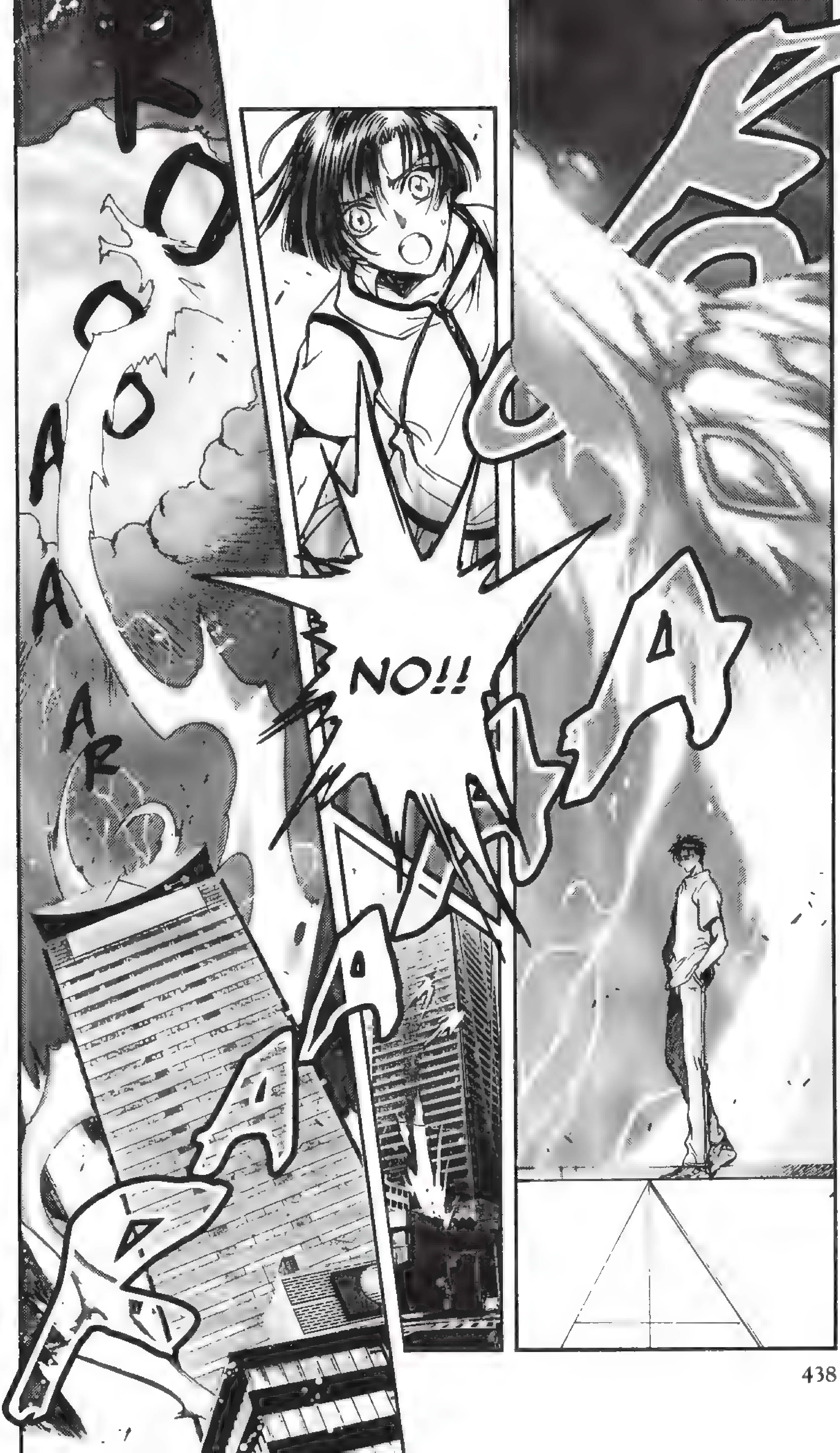

YOU DREAMT OF THAT GIRL AGAIN.
GRRP
HOKUTO.
ISN'T THAT HER NAME?
HOKUTO SUMERAGI.
THE SISTER OF A DRAGON OF HEAVEN, SUBARU SUMERAGI.


IT HURTS, I KNOW.
YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK ME...
...TO GRANT YOUR WISH.



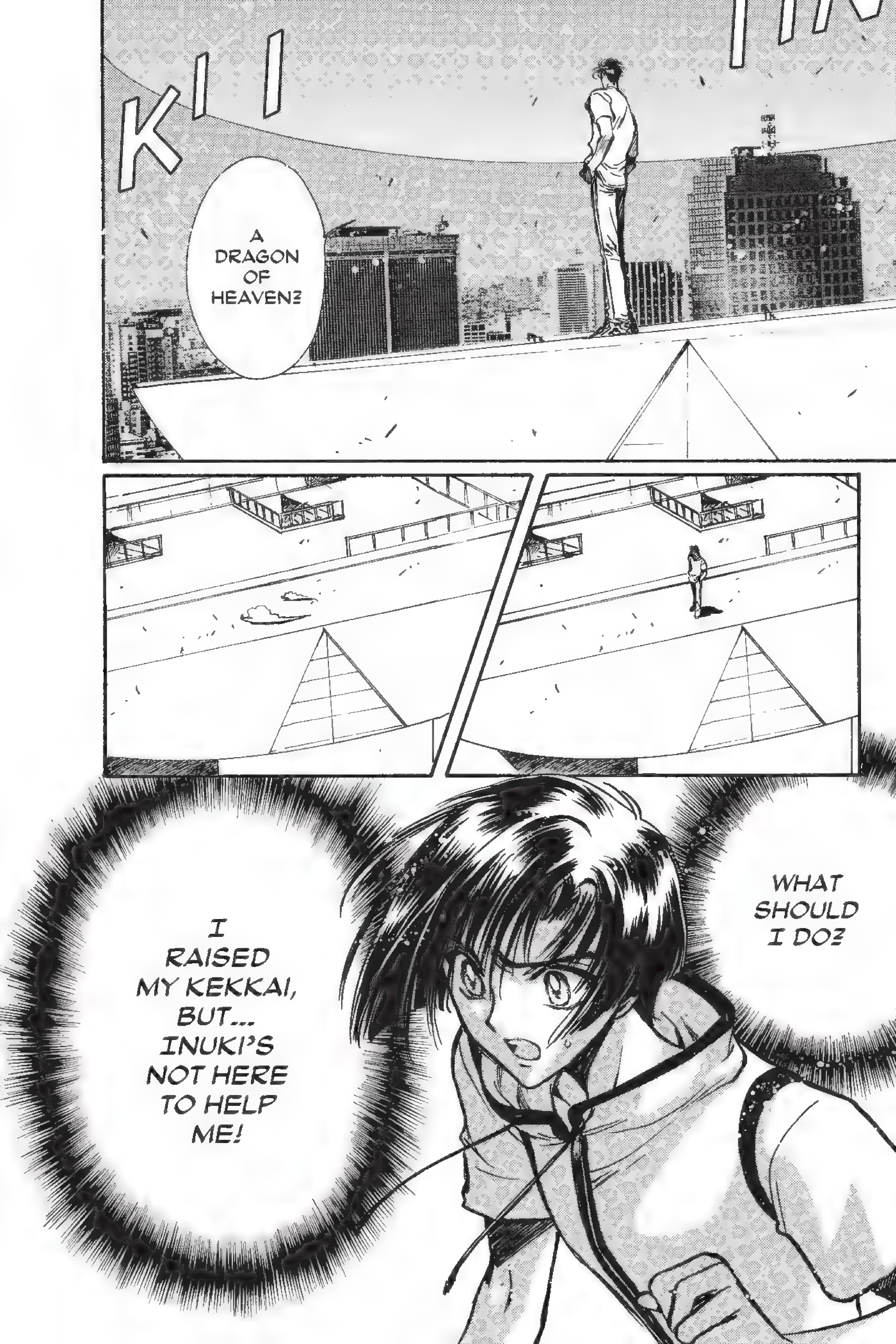

BAM
TMP
I NEVER LET THE OTHERS KNOW I'M ALL RIGHT. THEY MUST BE SO WORRIED BY NOW.
I'VE GOT TO GET BACK QUICK!
TMp

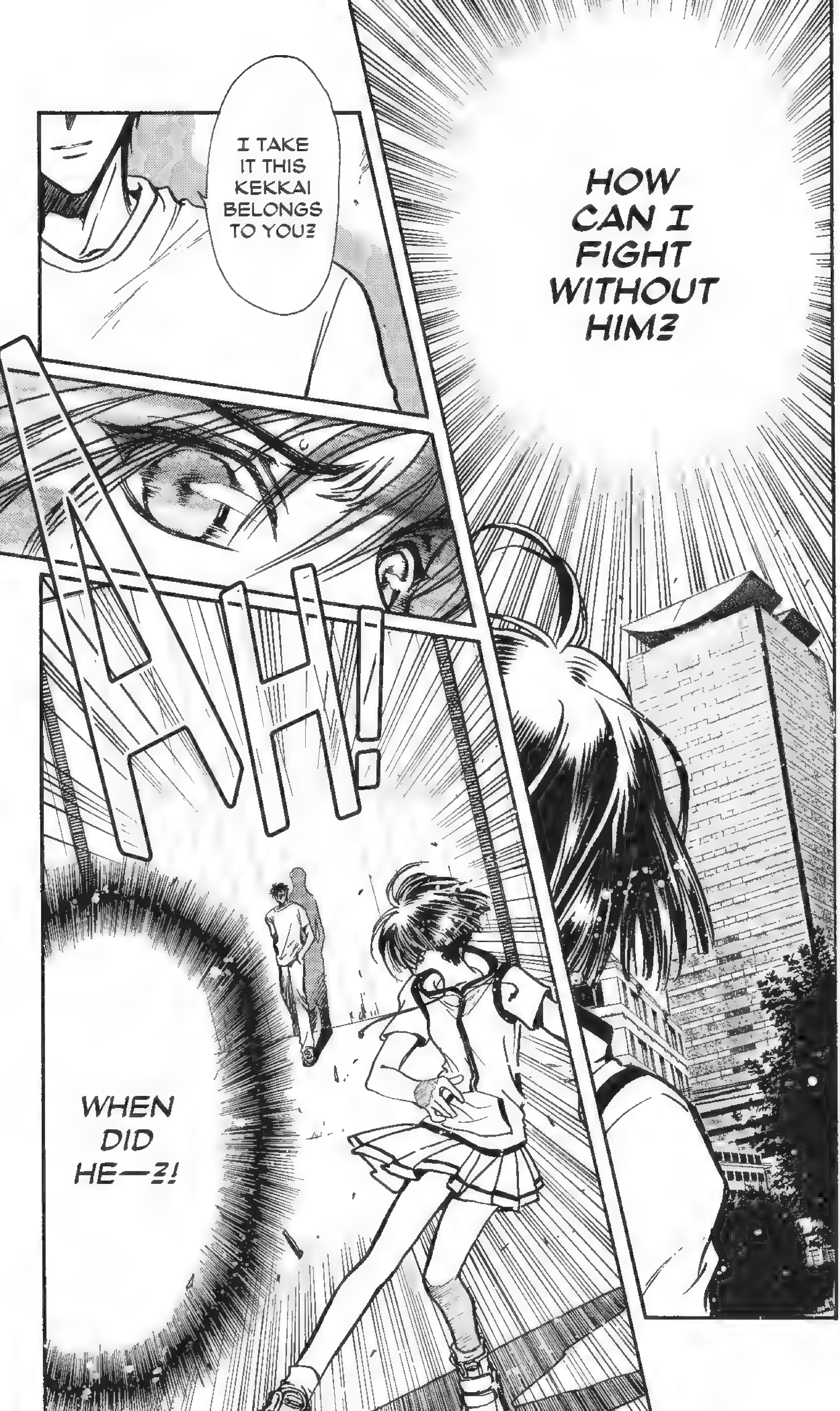

IT'S HIM !!

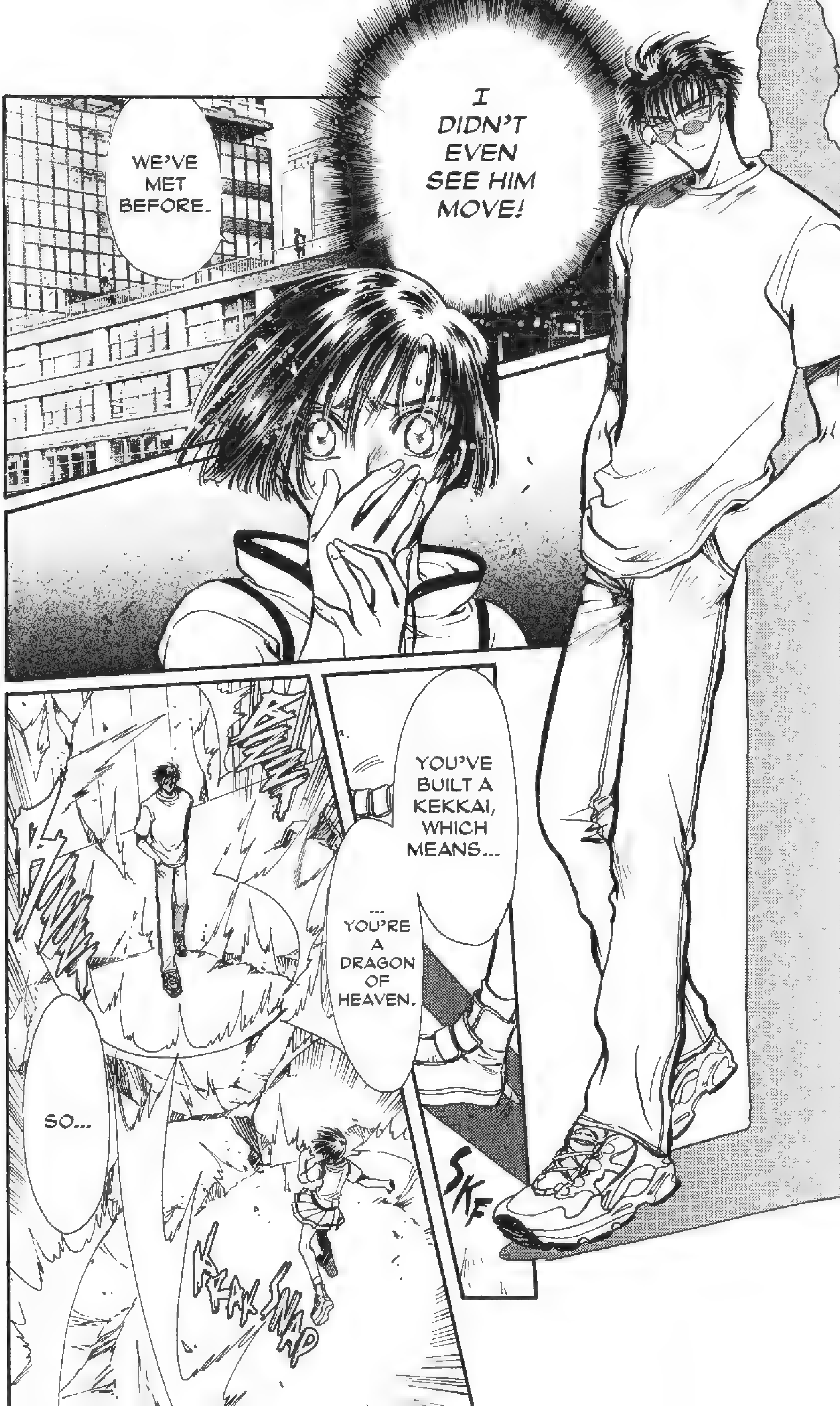

DOOAAAR
NO!!

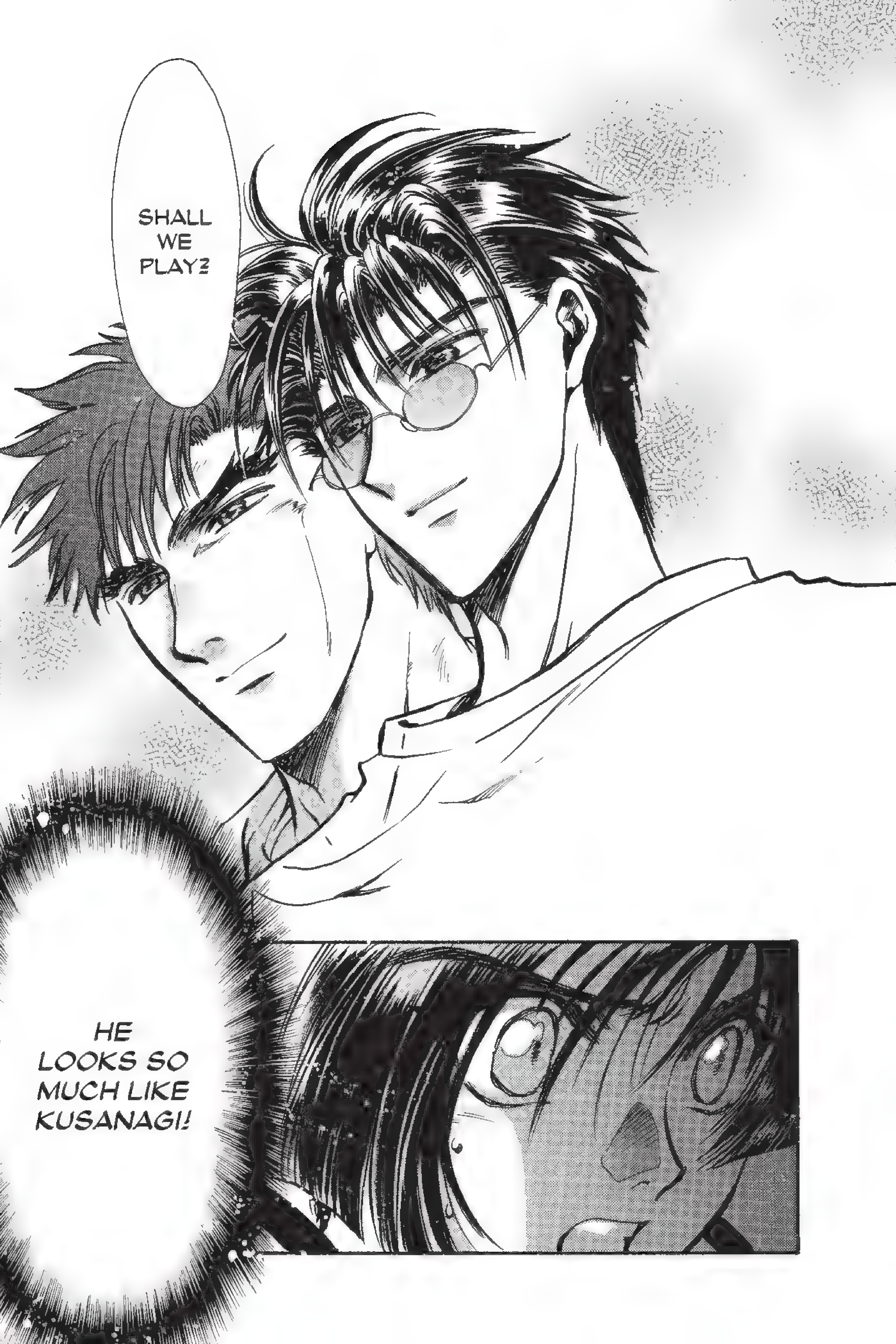
ZRM
ZRM
ZRM
ZRRM

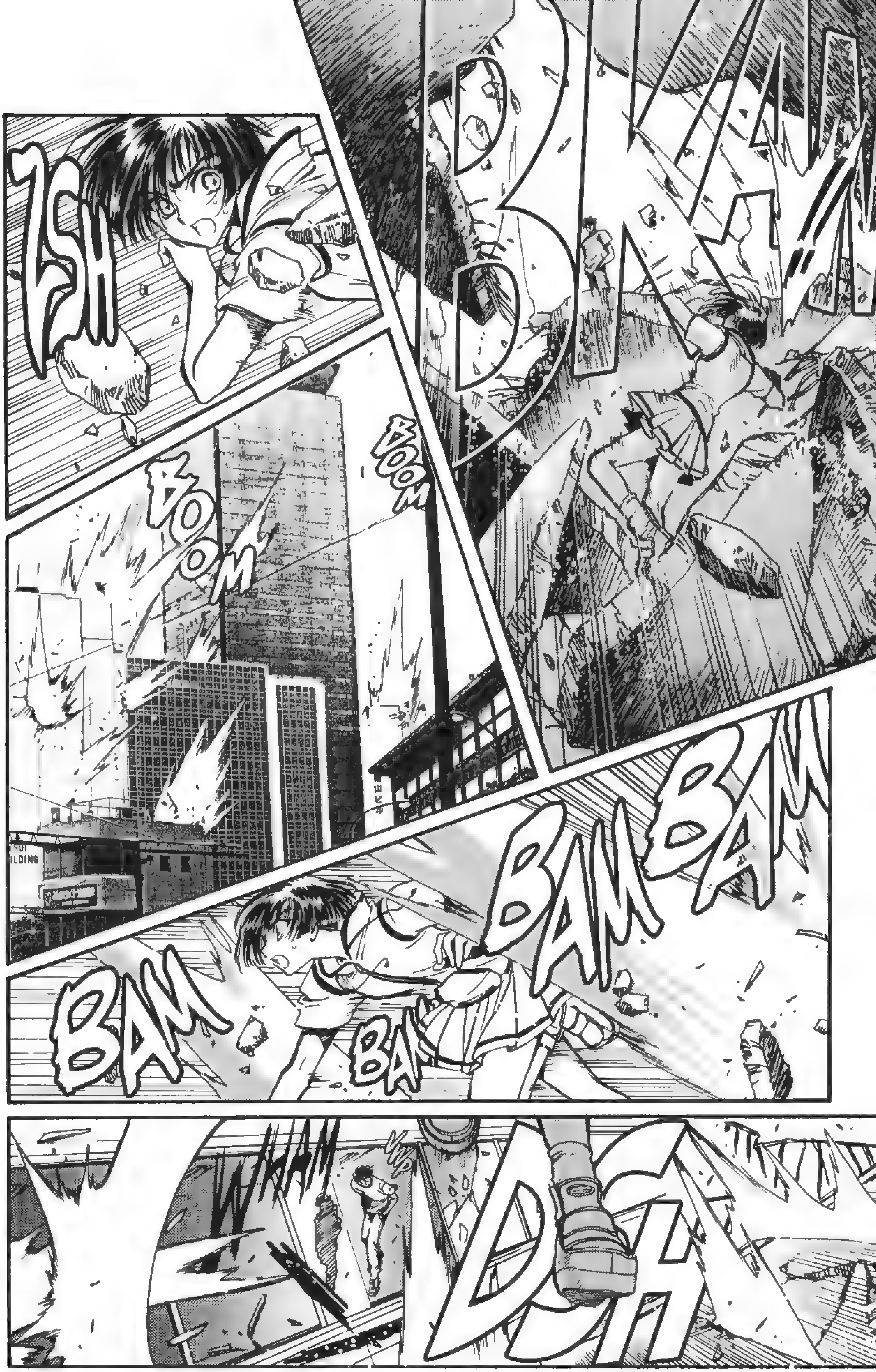
SHGNK

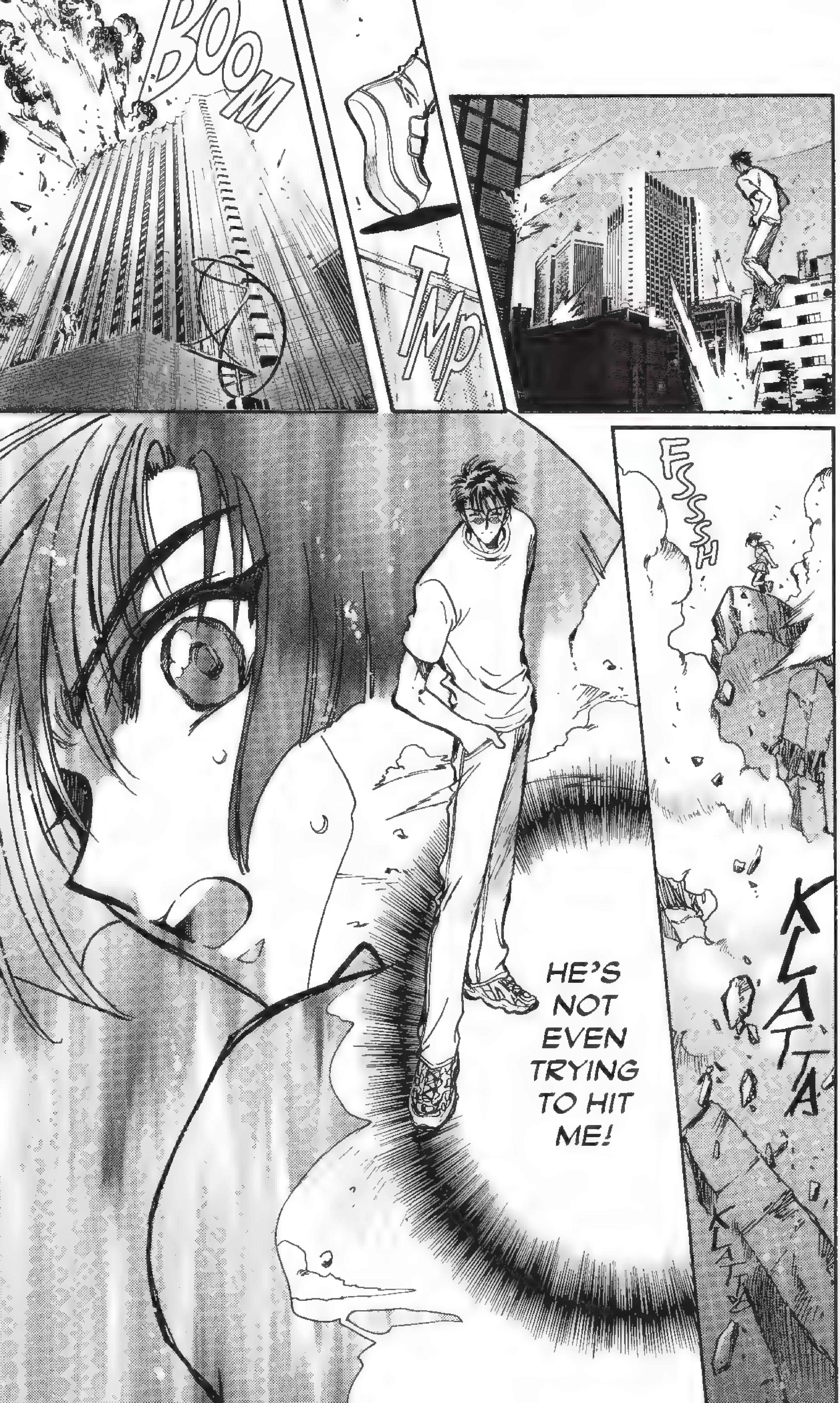

KII IIN
A DRAGON OF HEAVEN?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I RAISED MY KEKKAI, BUT... INUKI'S NOT HERE TO HELP ME!

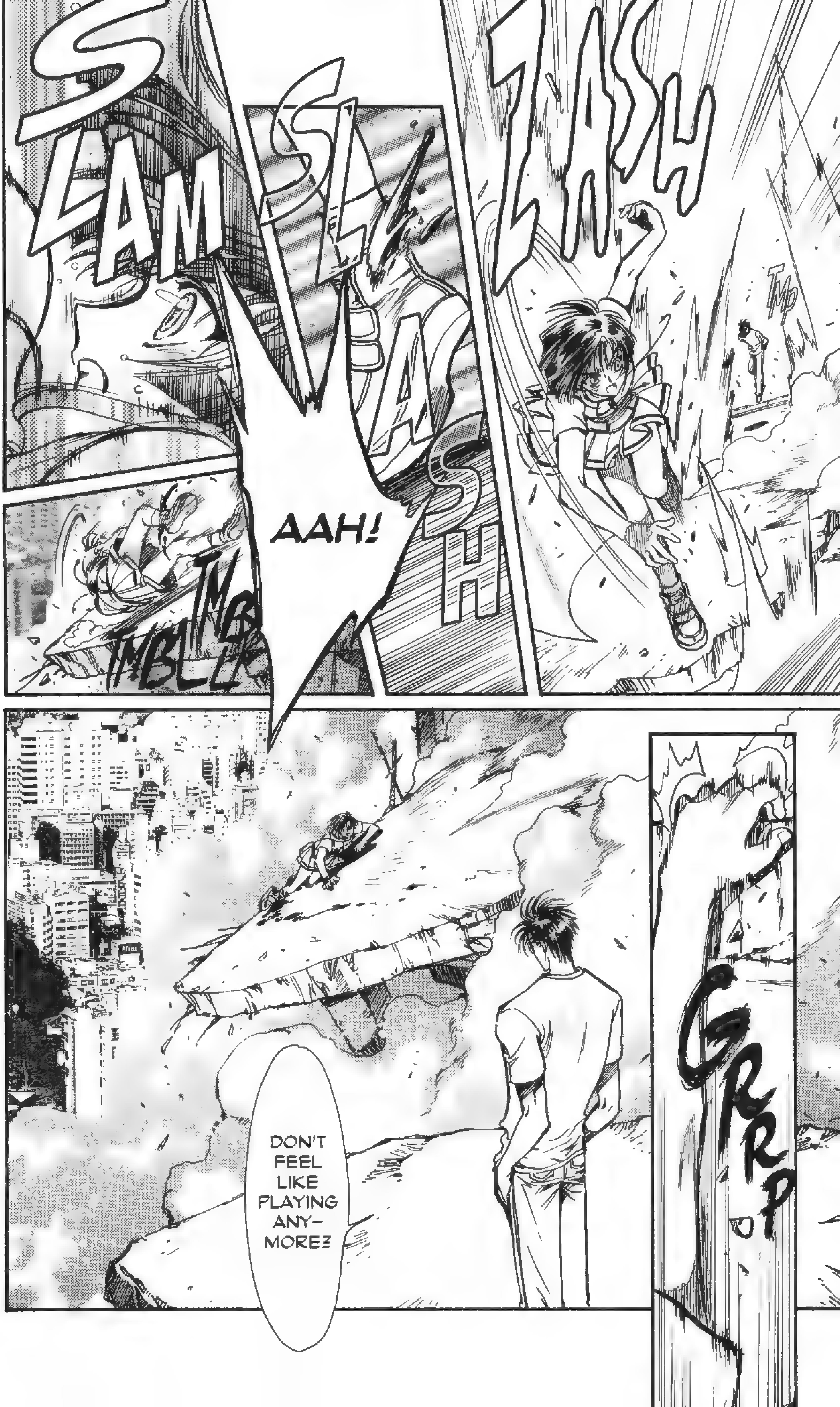

HOW CAN I FIGHT WITHOUT HIM?
I TAKE IT THIS KEKKAI BELONGS TO YOU?
AHH!
WHEN DID HE—?!

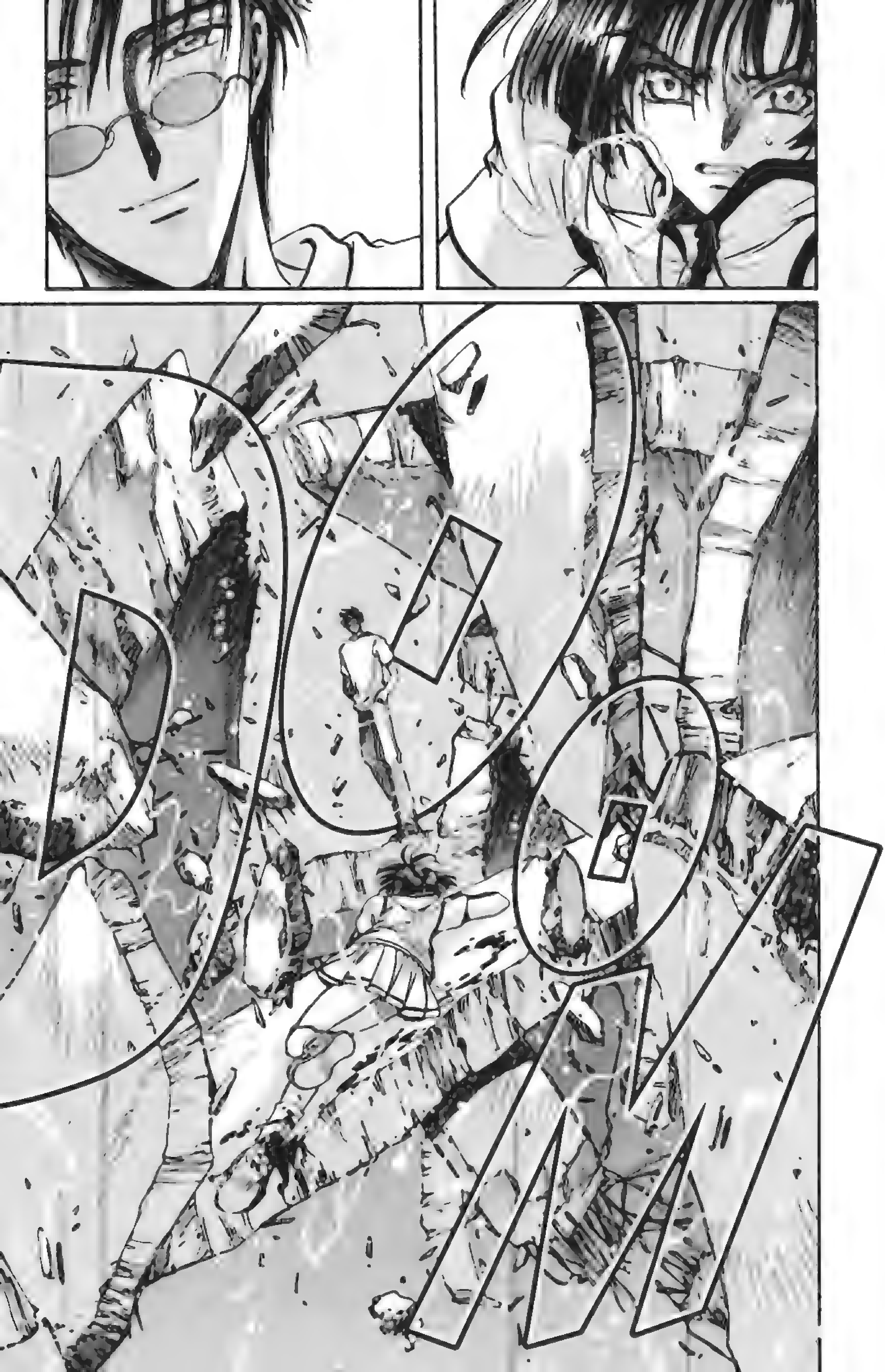

I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIM MOVE!
WE'VE MET BEFORE.
YOU'VE BUILT A KEKKAI, WHICH MEANS...
...YOU'RE A DRAGON OF HEAVEN.
SKF
SO...
KRAK SNAP

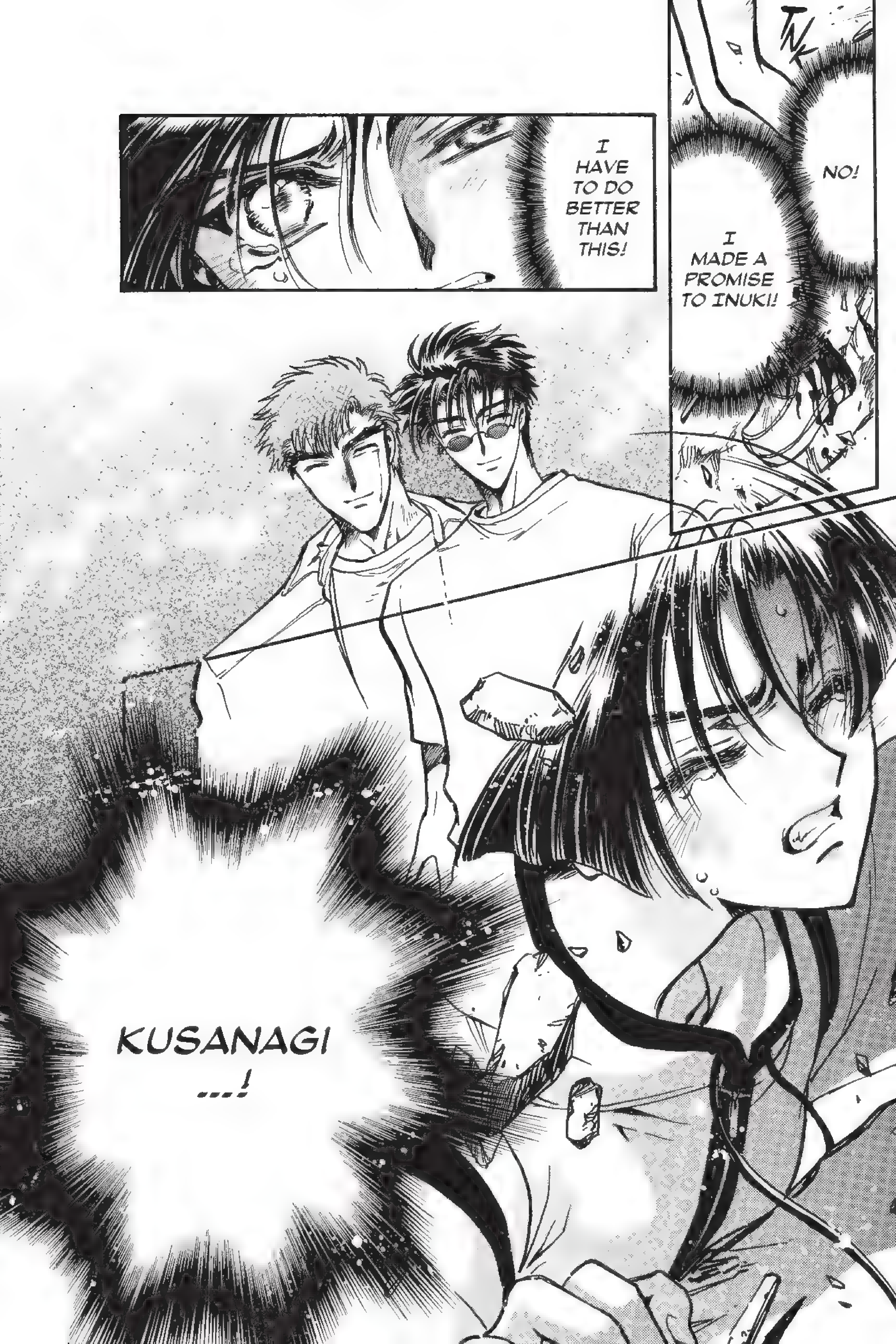

SHALL WE PLAY?
HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE KUSANAGI!

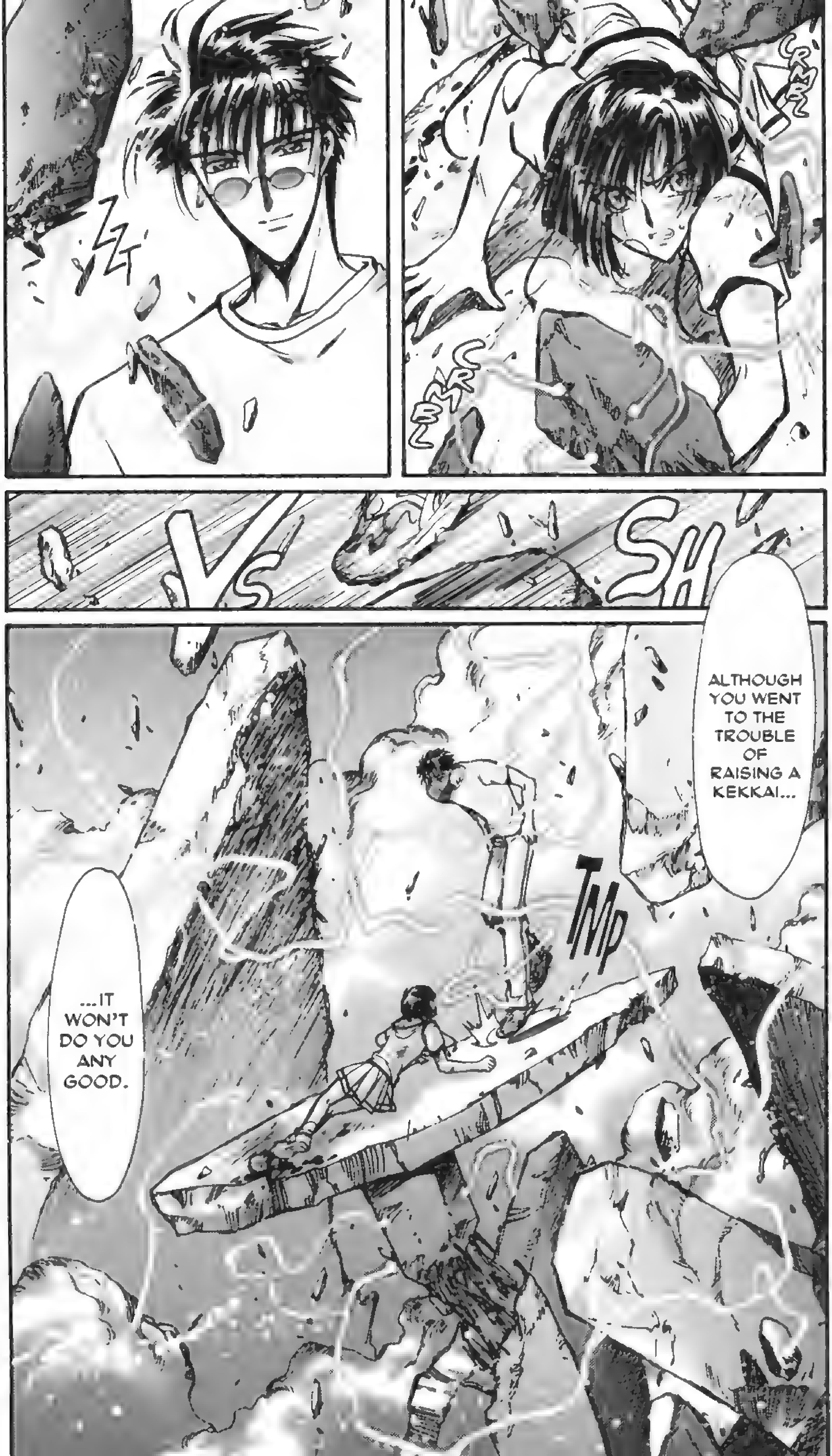

BKAAAM
ZSH
BOOM
BOOM
SUI
ILDING
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BA
BAM
DAH
VIP
WHAM

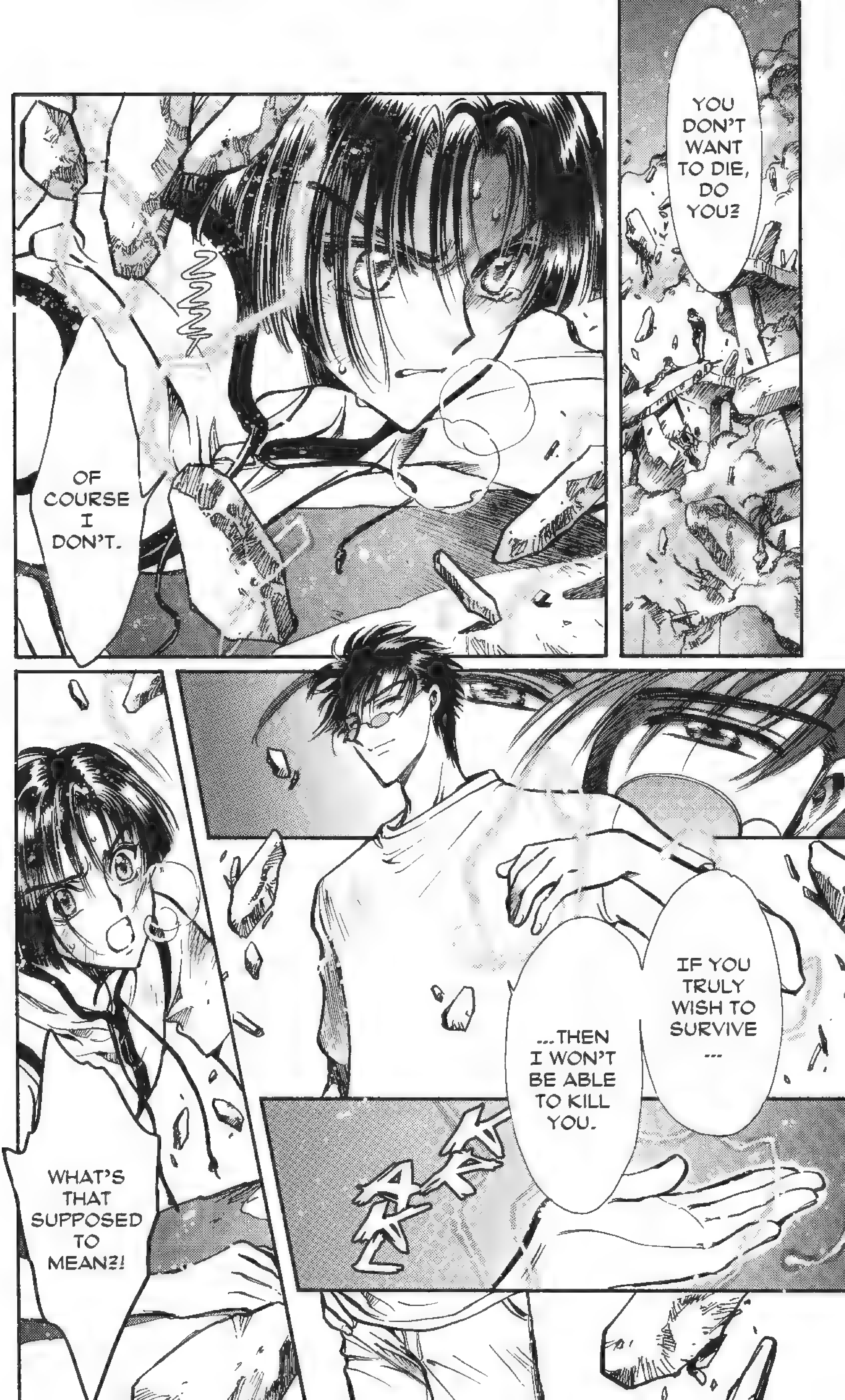

TMP
BOOM
FSSSH
KLATTA
KLATTA
HE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO HIT ME!

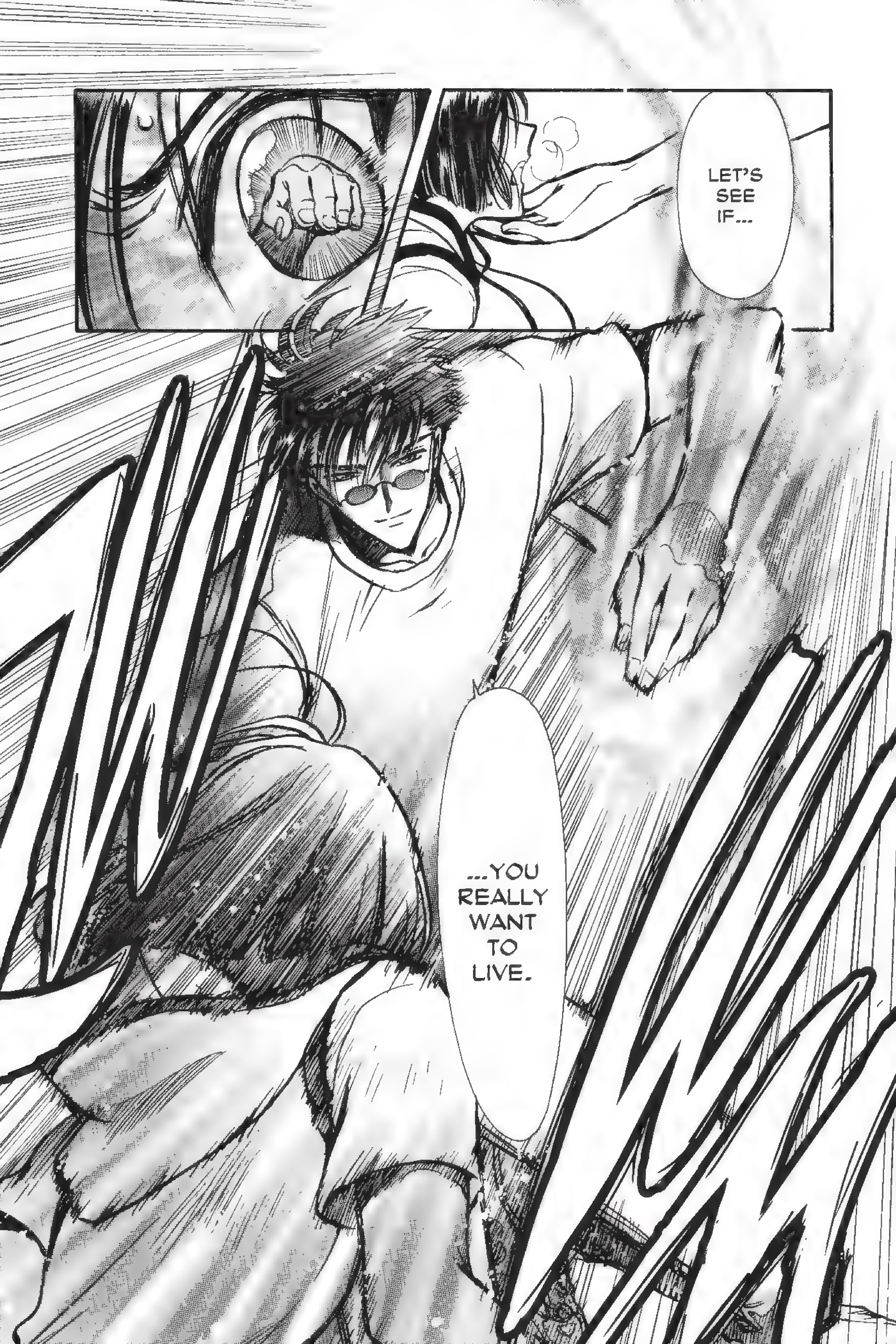

ZASH
SLASH
SLAM
TMP
AAH!
TMBLLL
GRRP
DON'T FEEL LIKE PLAYING ANY-MORE?

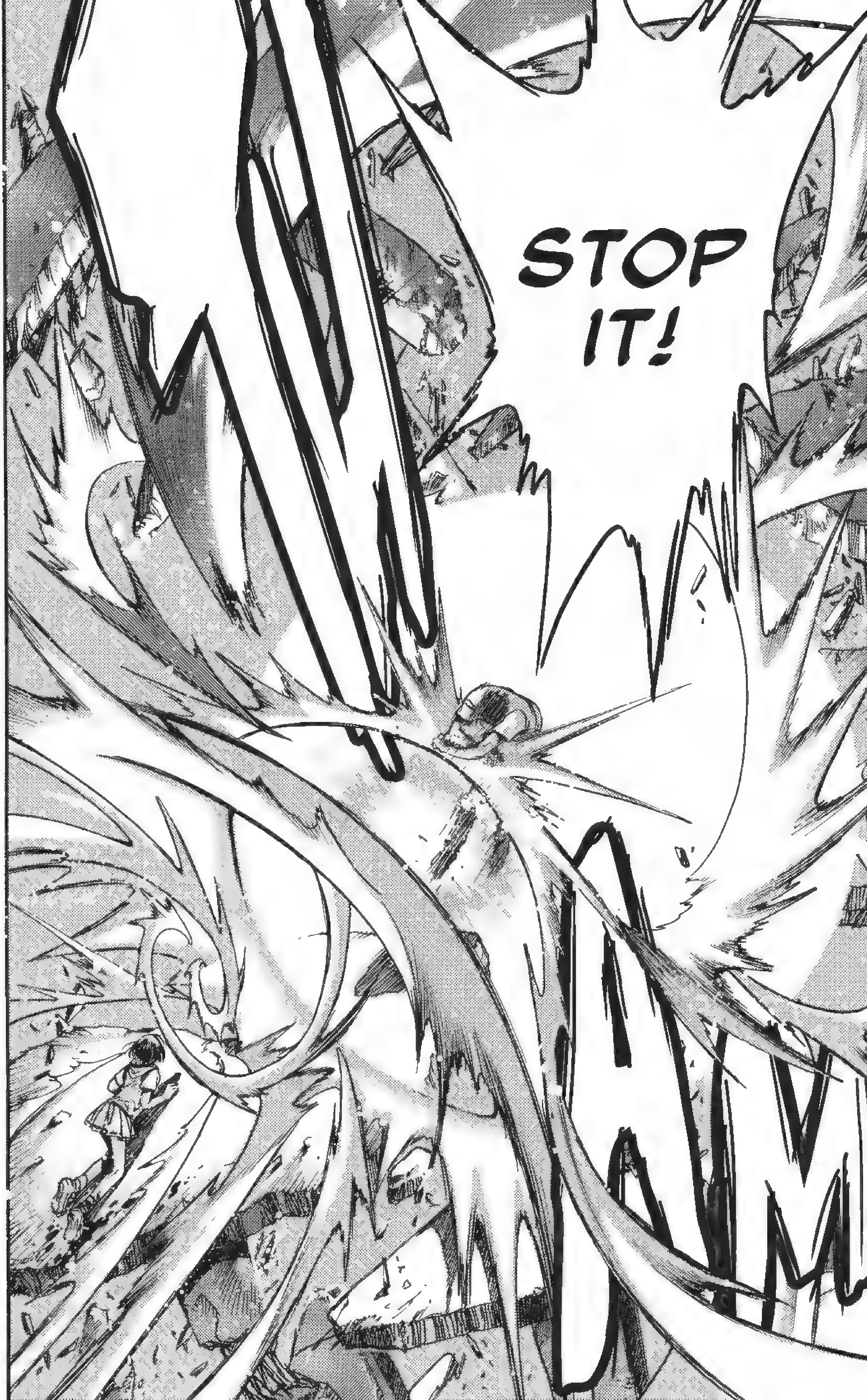


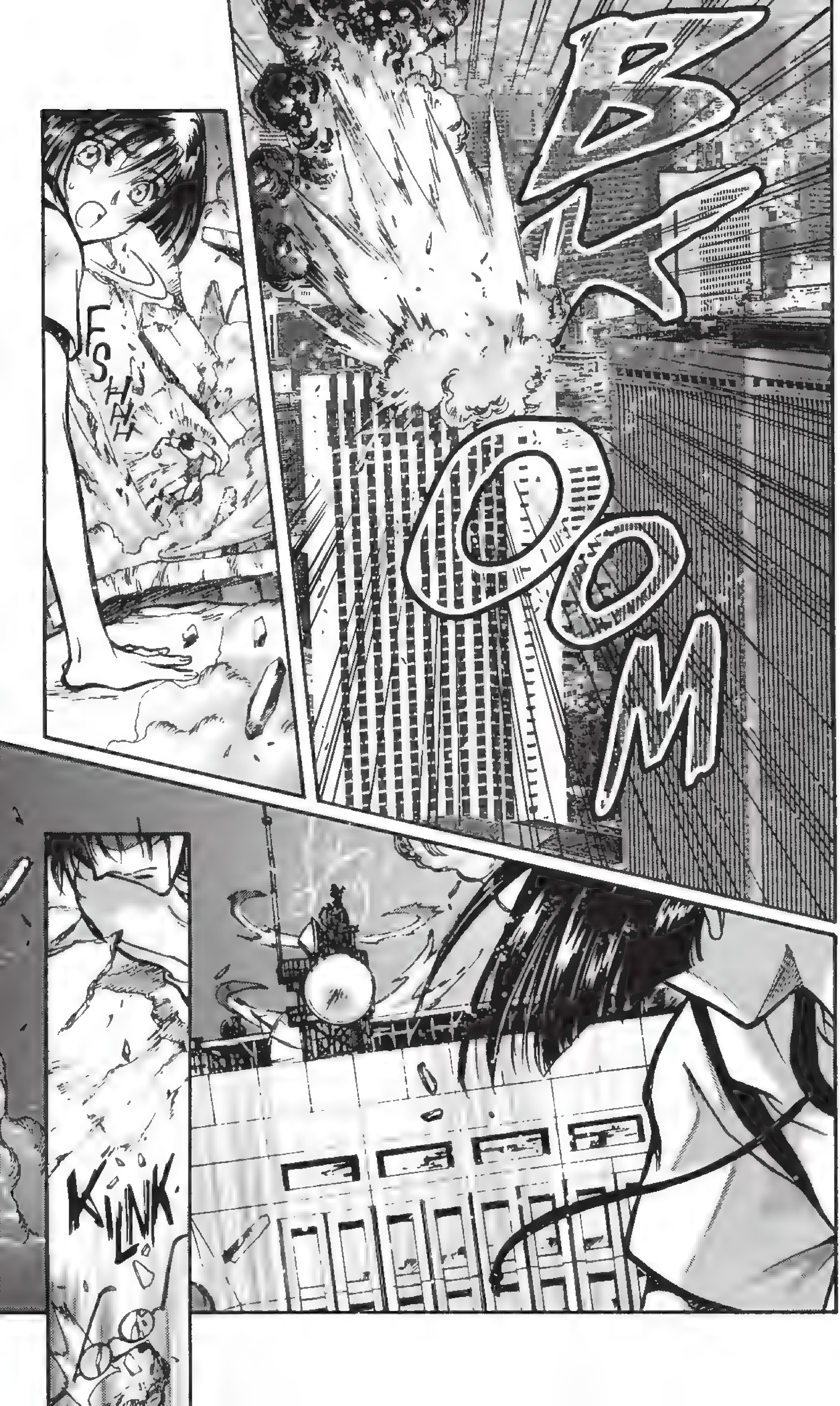

TINK
NO!
I MADE A PROMISE TO INUKI!
I HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THIS!
KUSANAGI ...!

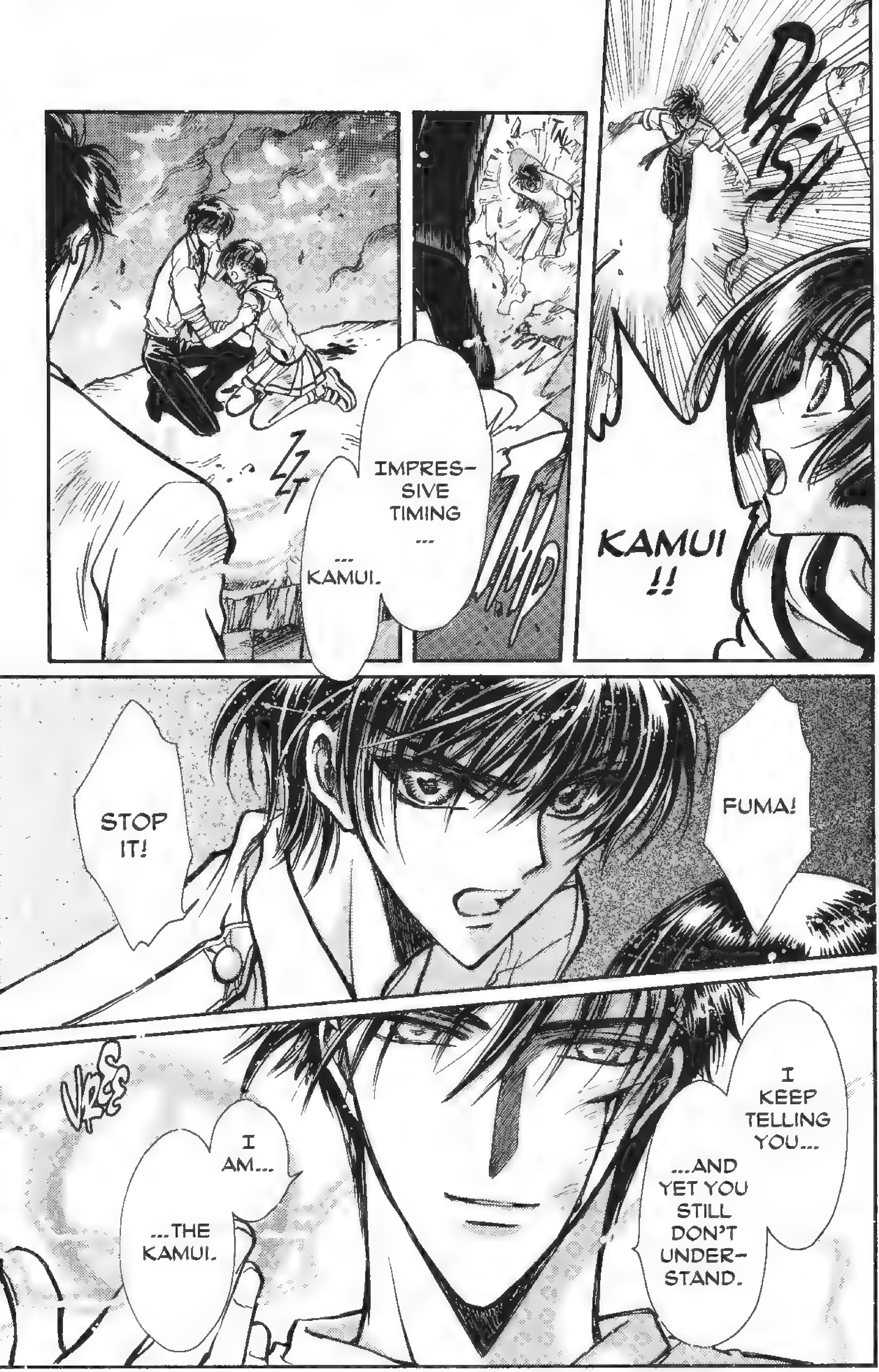

CRMBL
CRMBL
ZZZT
SH
VS
ALTHOUGH YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF RAISING A KEKKAI...
TMP
...IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.

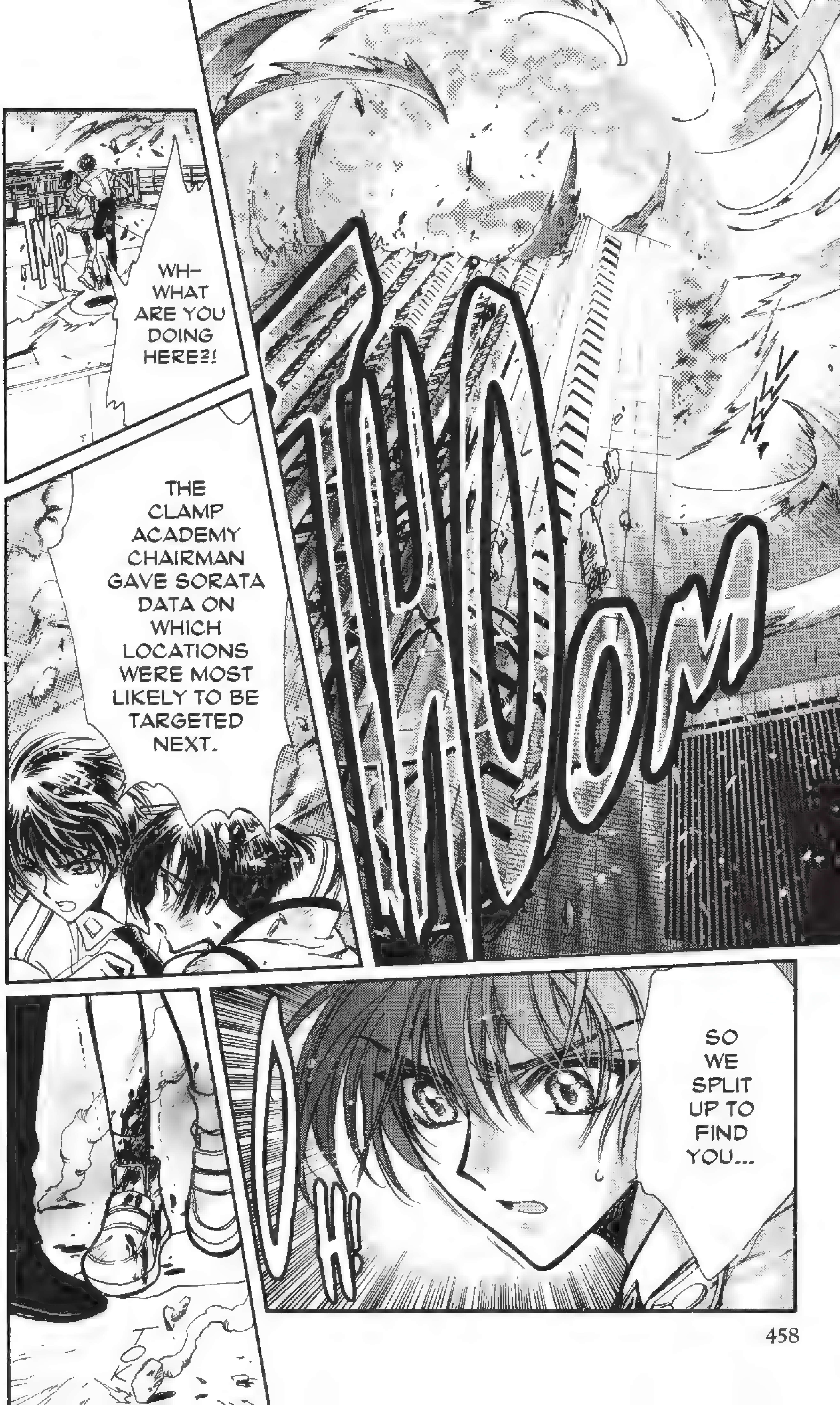

YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO YOU?
OF COURSE I DON'T.
IF YOU TRULY WISH TO SURVIVE ...
...THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO KILL YOU.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

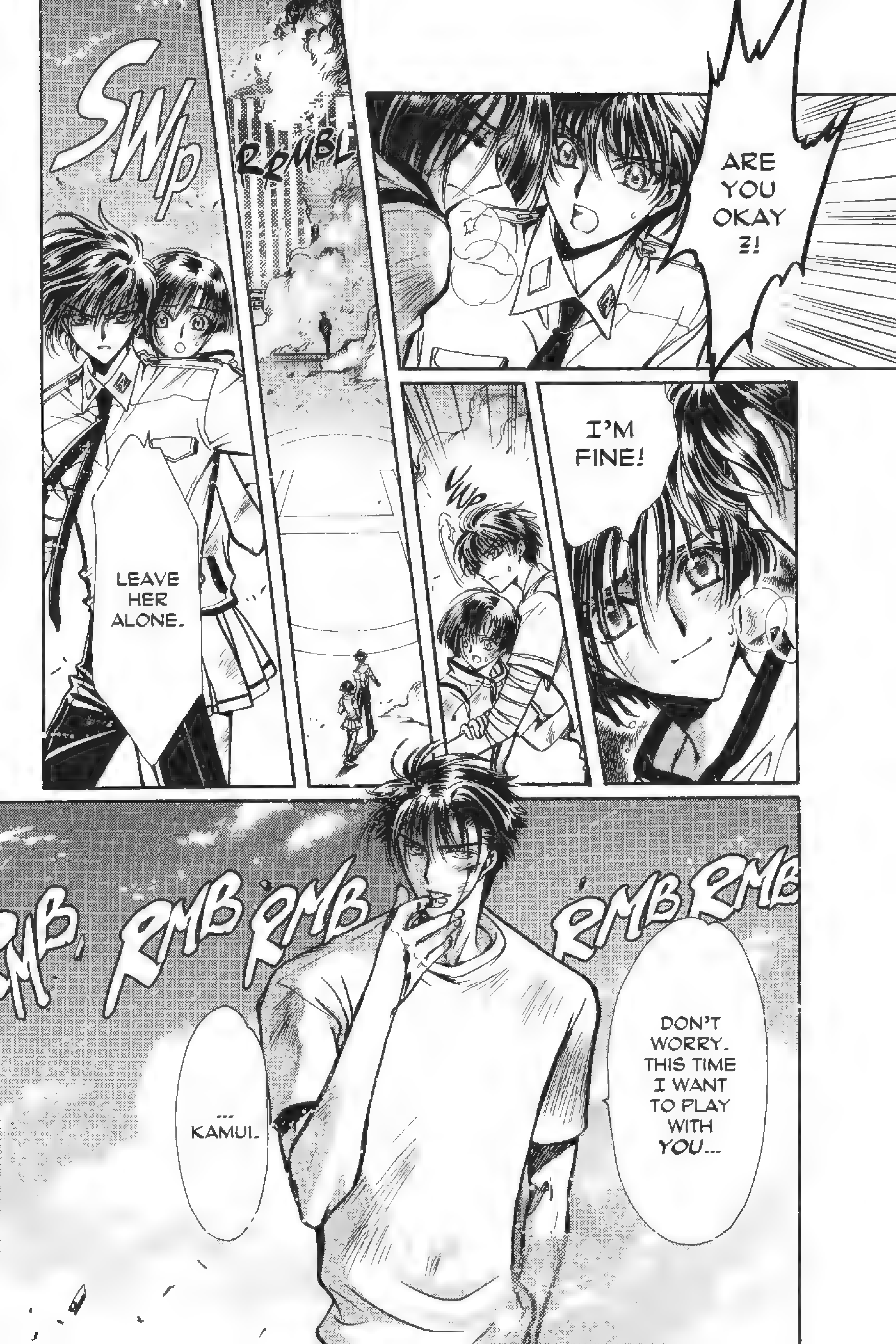

LET'S SEE IF...
...YOU REALLY WANT TO LIVE.

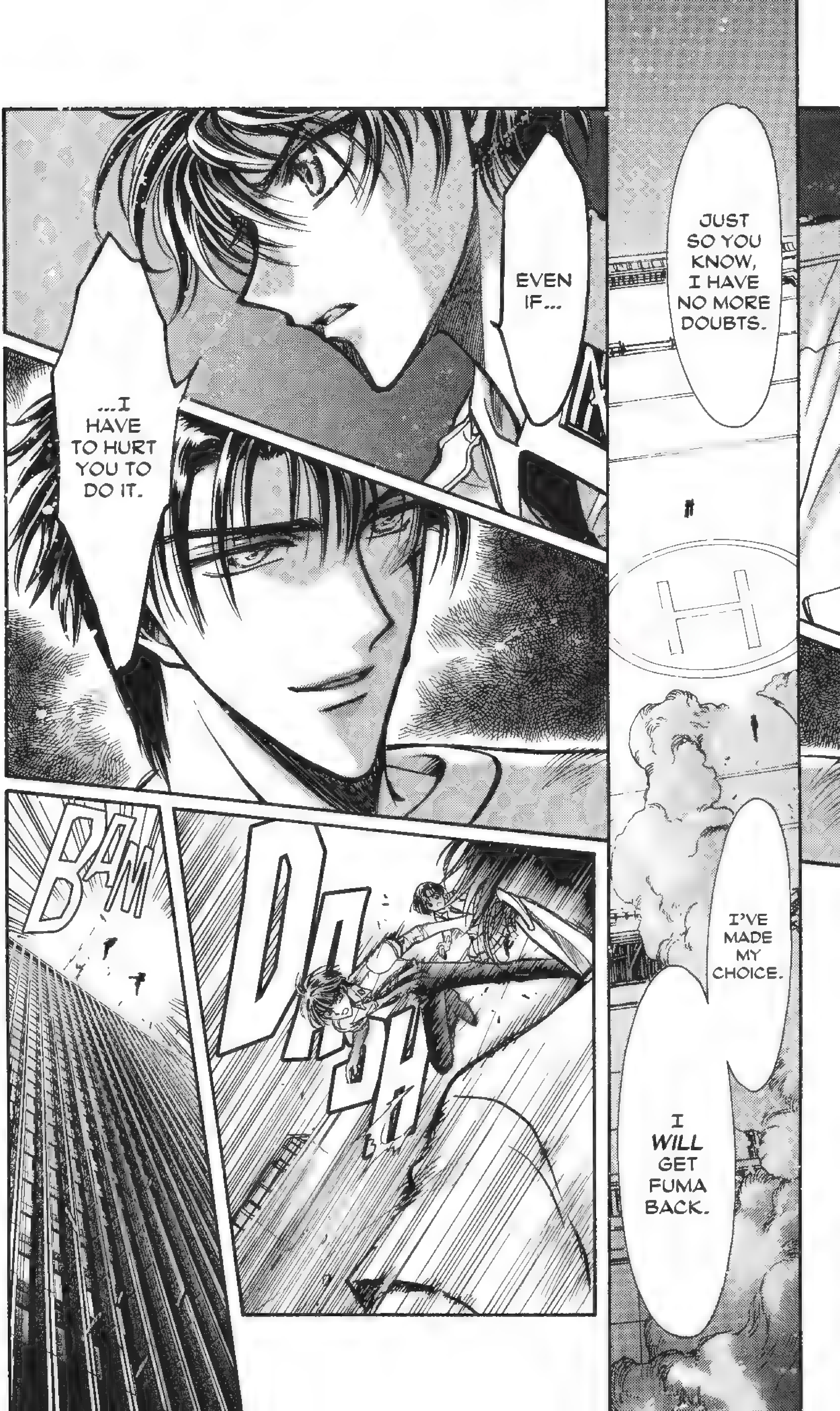

STOP IT!

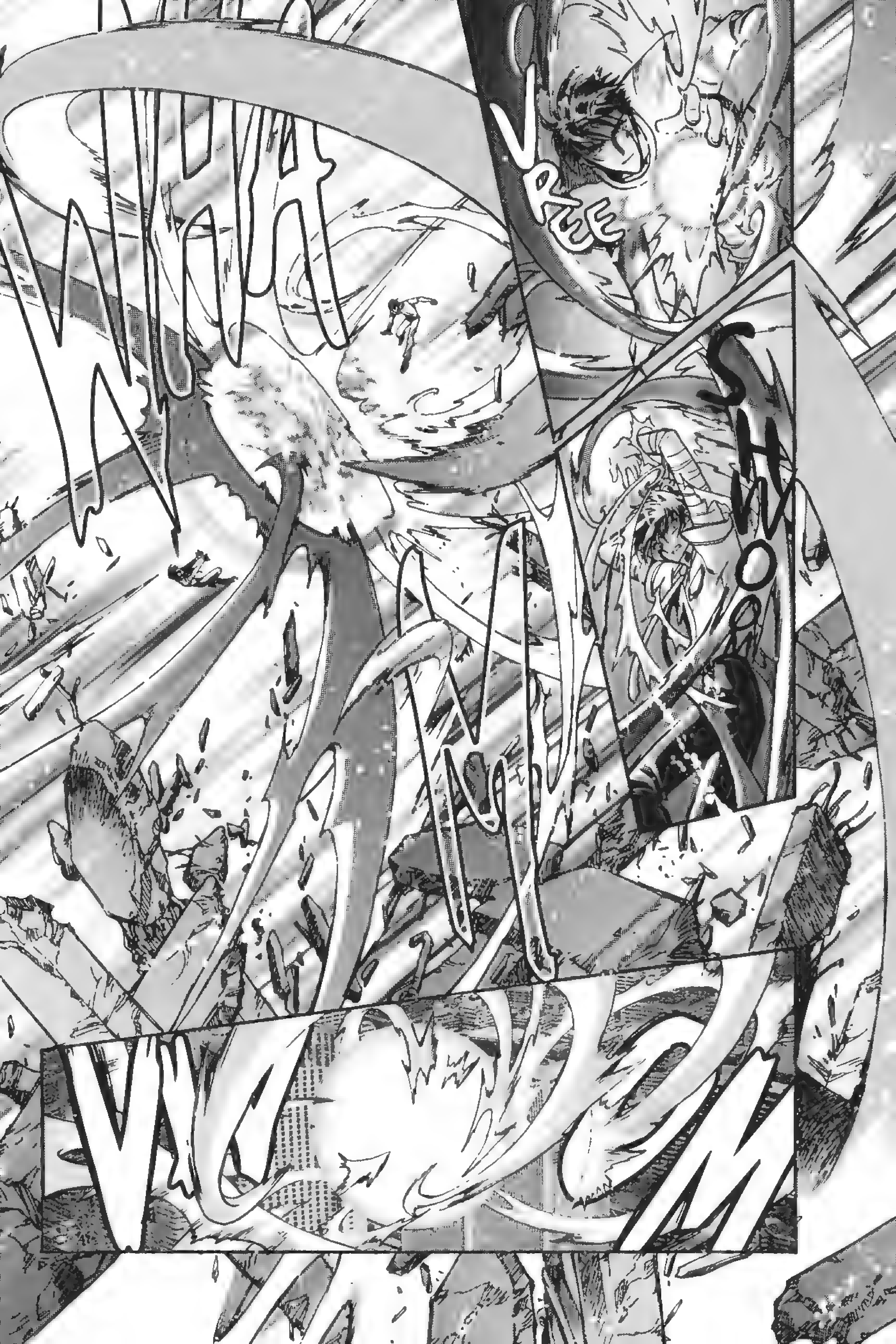

BROOM
FSHHH
KLINK

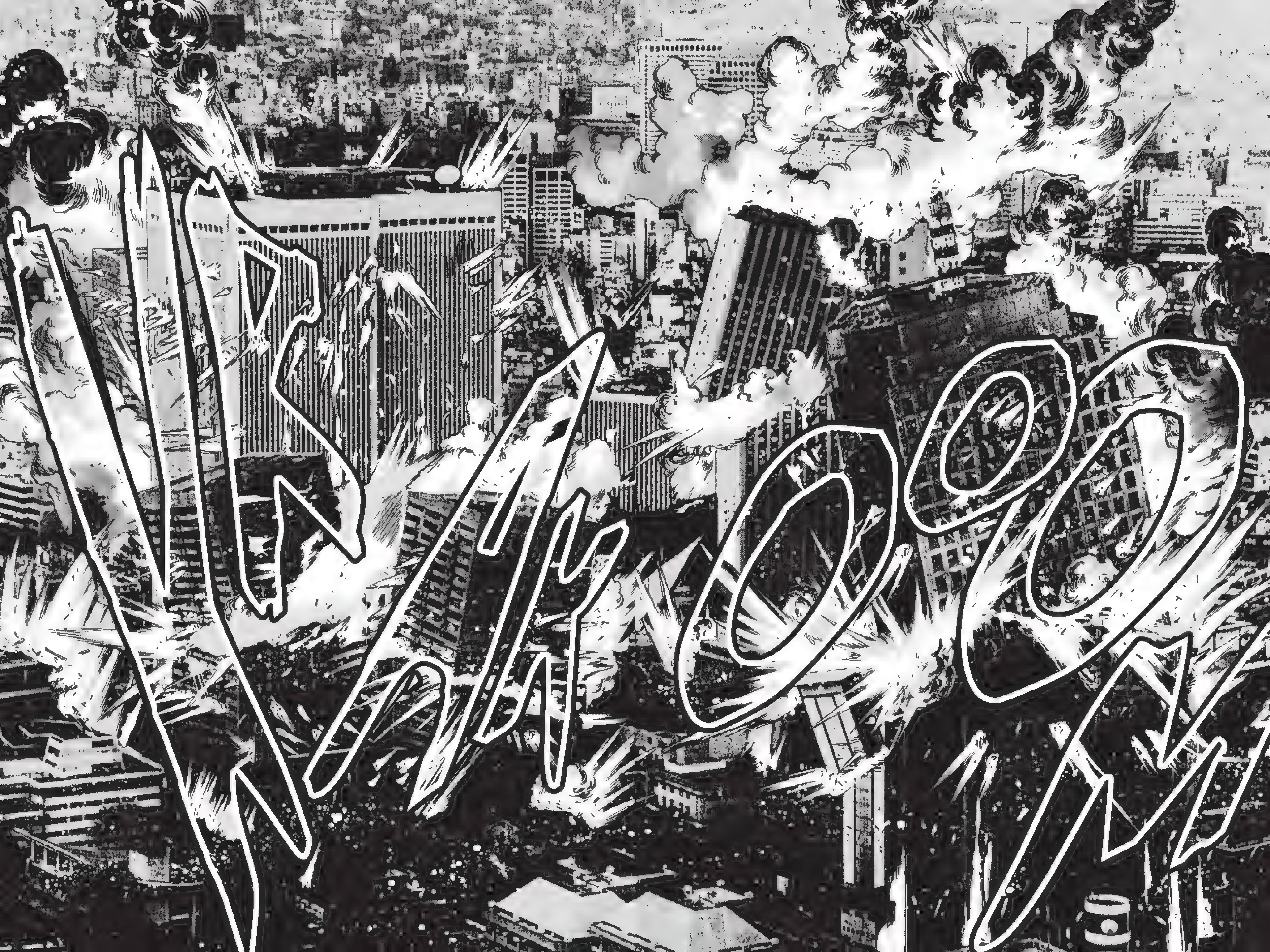

DASH
KAMUI !!
TNK
IMPRESSIVE TIMING ...
... KAMUI.
WHP
ZZT
FUMA!
STOP IT!
I KEEP TELLING YOU...
...AND YET YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I AM...
...THE KAMUI.
VRSS

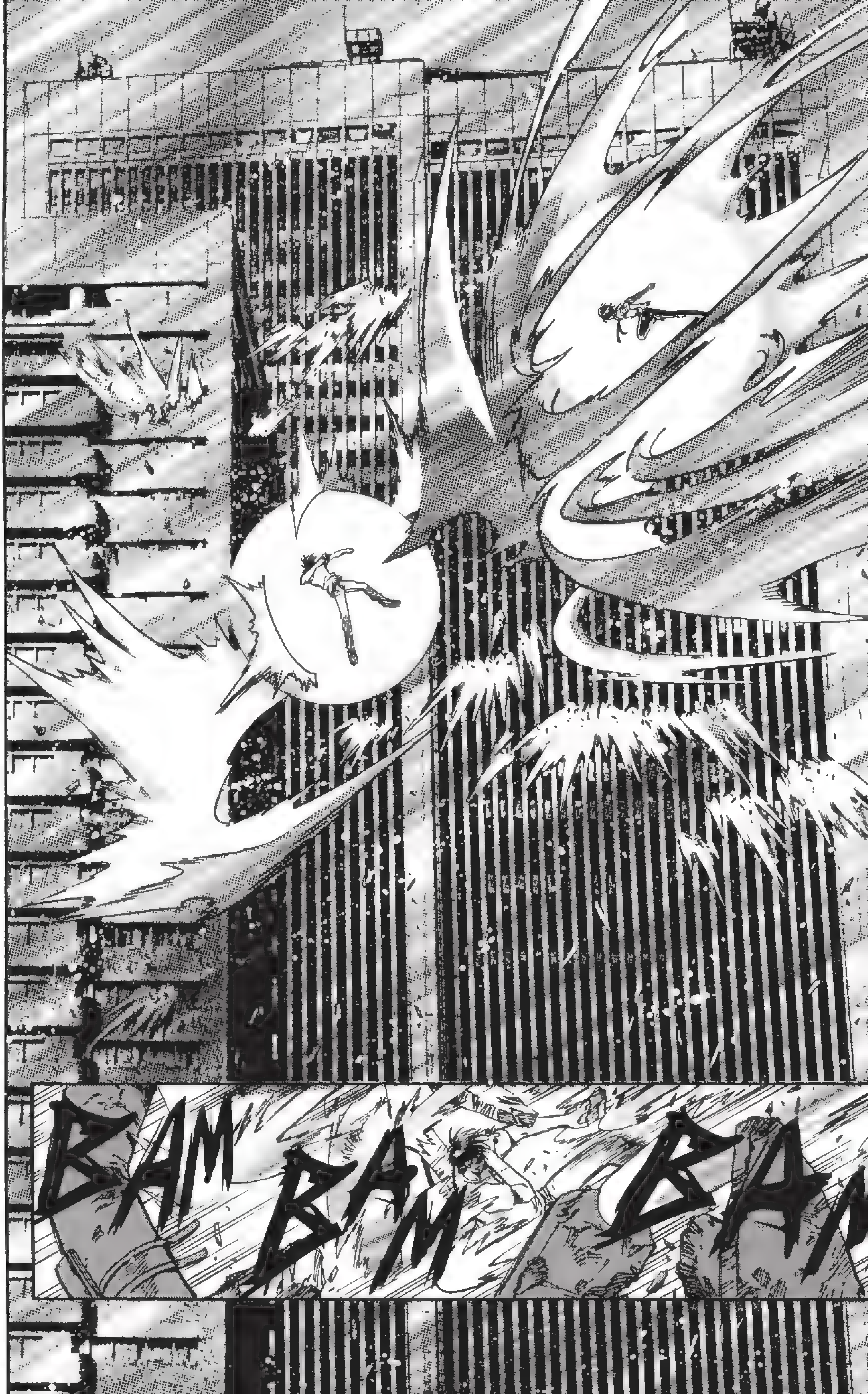

WHOOM
VWWM
TMP
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
THE CLAMP ACADEMY CHAIRMAN GAVE SORATA DATA ON WHICH LOCATIONS WERE MOST LIKELY TO BE TARGETED NEXT.
SO WE SPLIT UP TO FIND YOU...
OH!
TOK

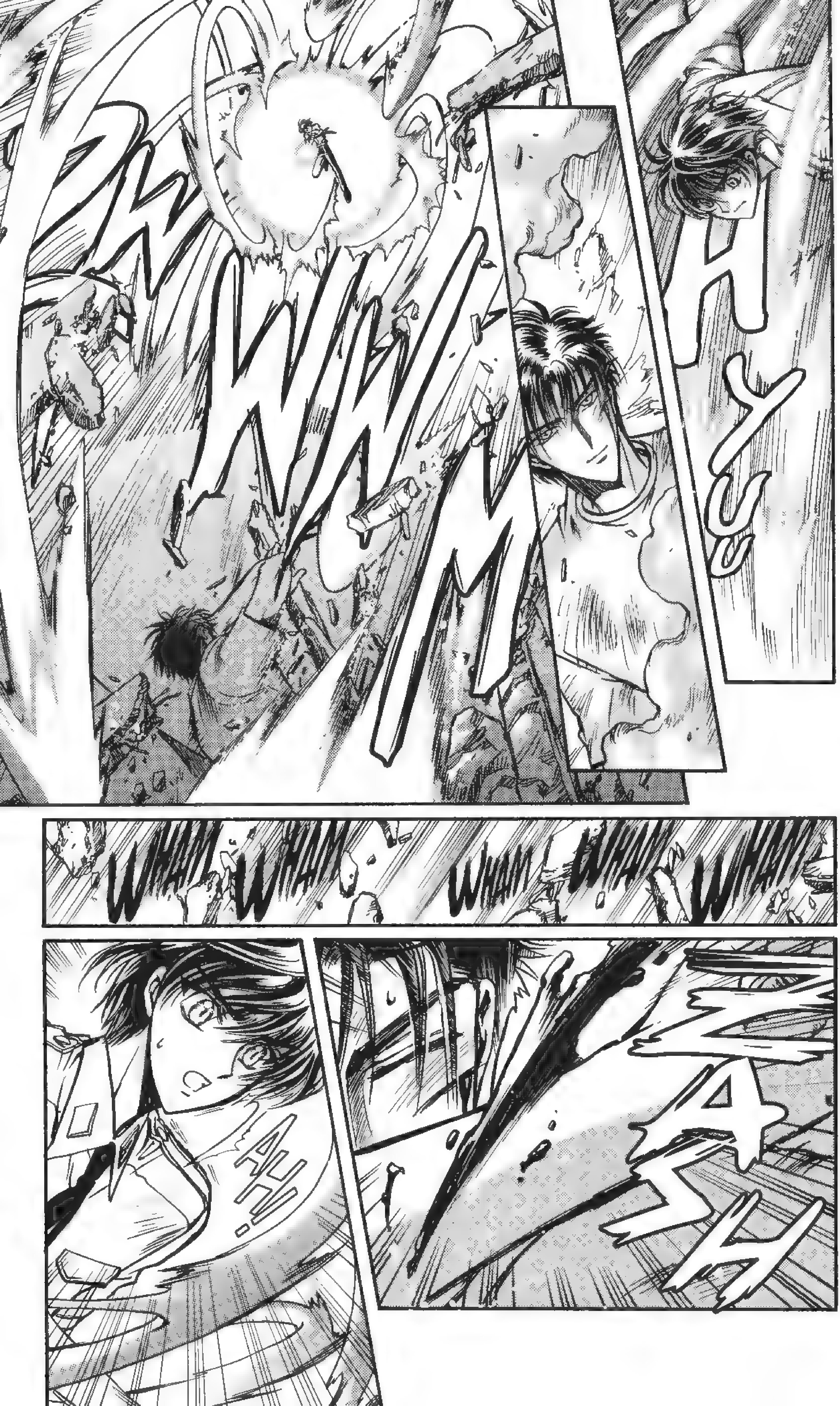

ARE YOU OKAY ?!
I'M FINE!
VWIP
RRMBL
SWIP
LEAVE HER ALONE.
RMB RMB
DON'T WORRY. THIS TIME I WANT TO PLAY WITH *YOU*...
RMB, RMB RMB
... KAMUI.

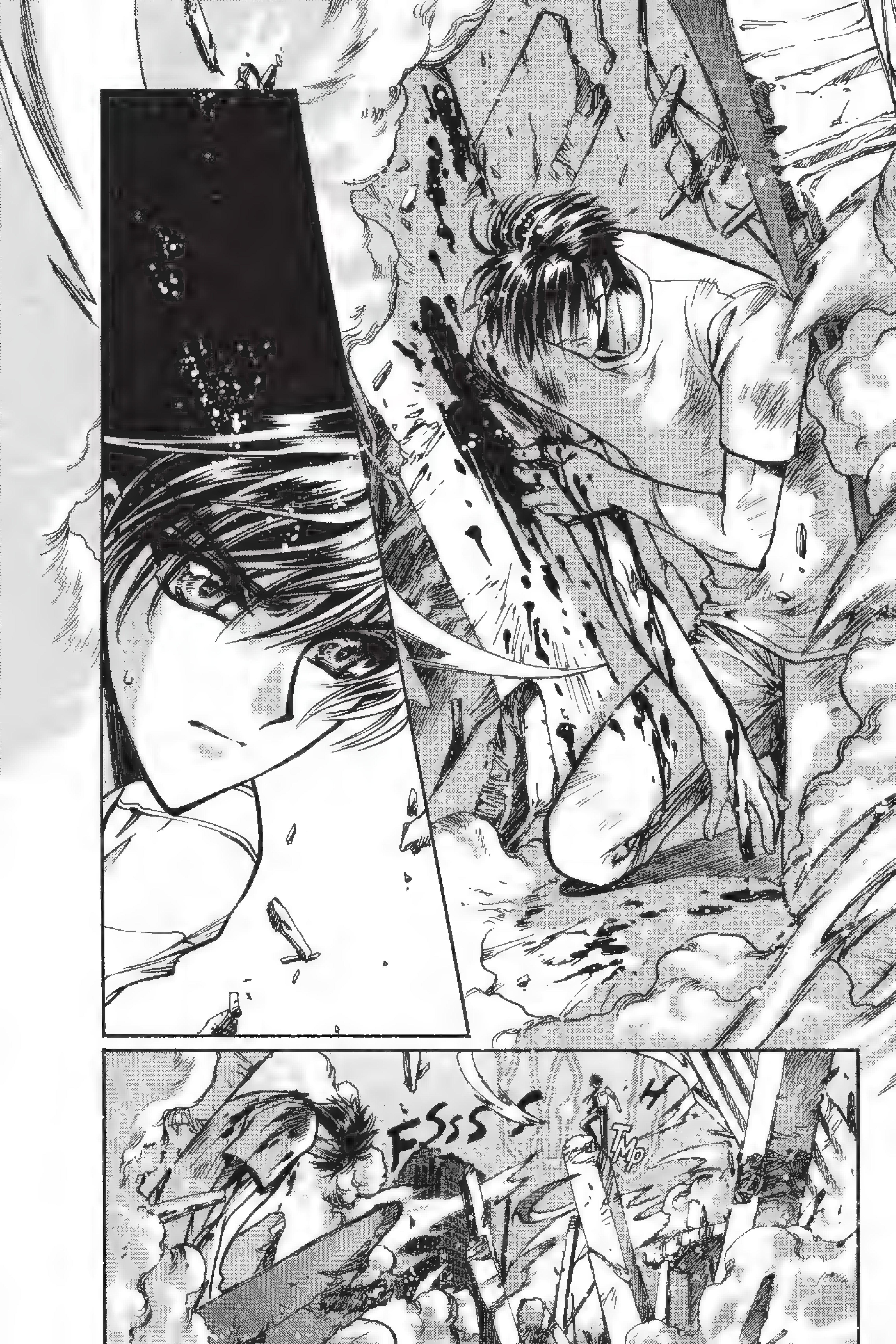

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I HAVE NO MORE DOUBTS.
I'VE MADE MY CHOICE.
I *WILL* GET FUMA BACK.
EVEN IF...
...I HAVE TO HURT YOU TO DO IT.
BAM
DASH

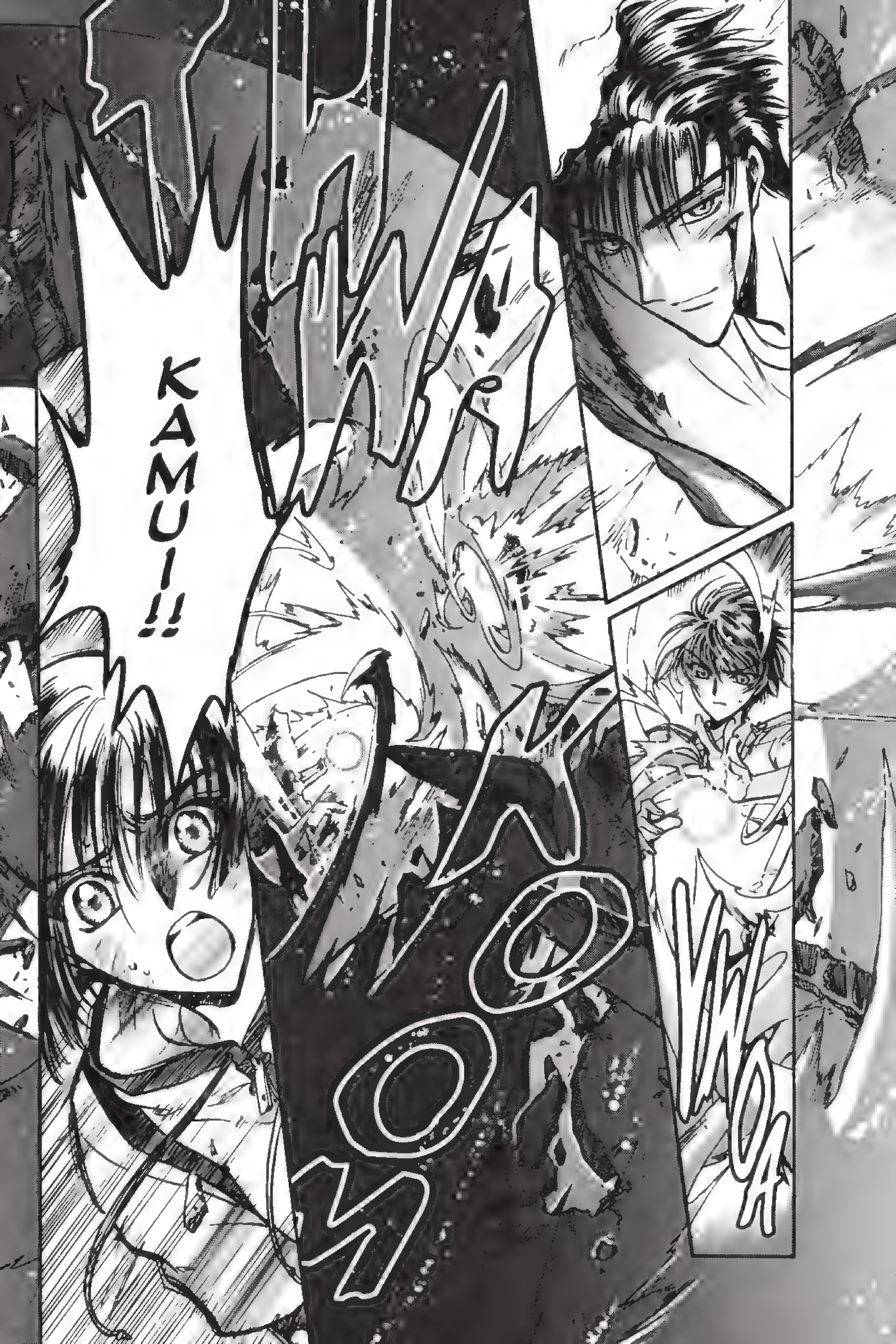

VREE
SHWOO
VWOM

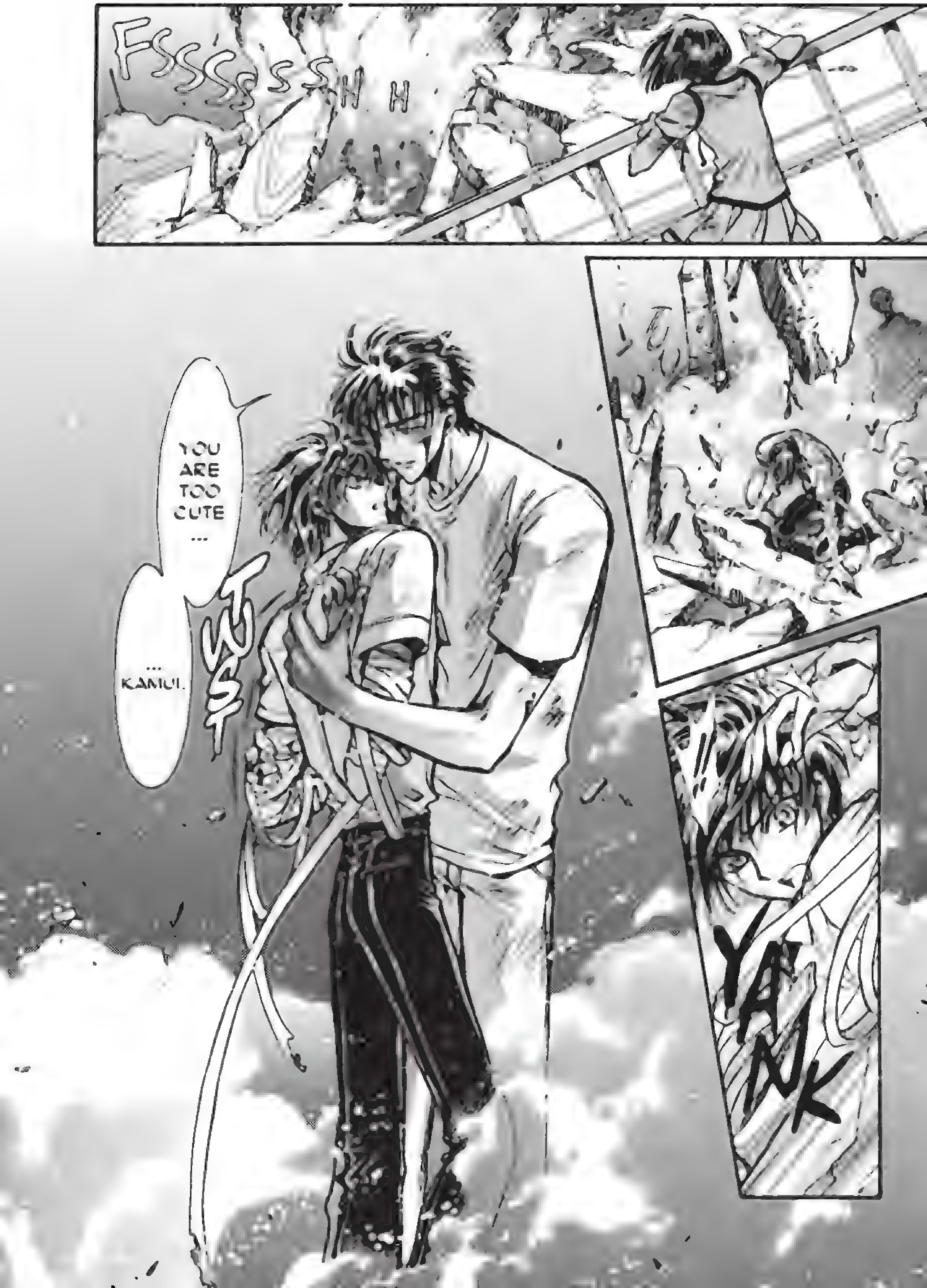

Whoom

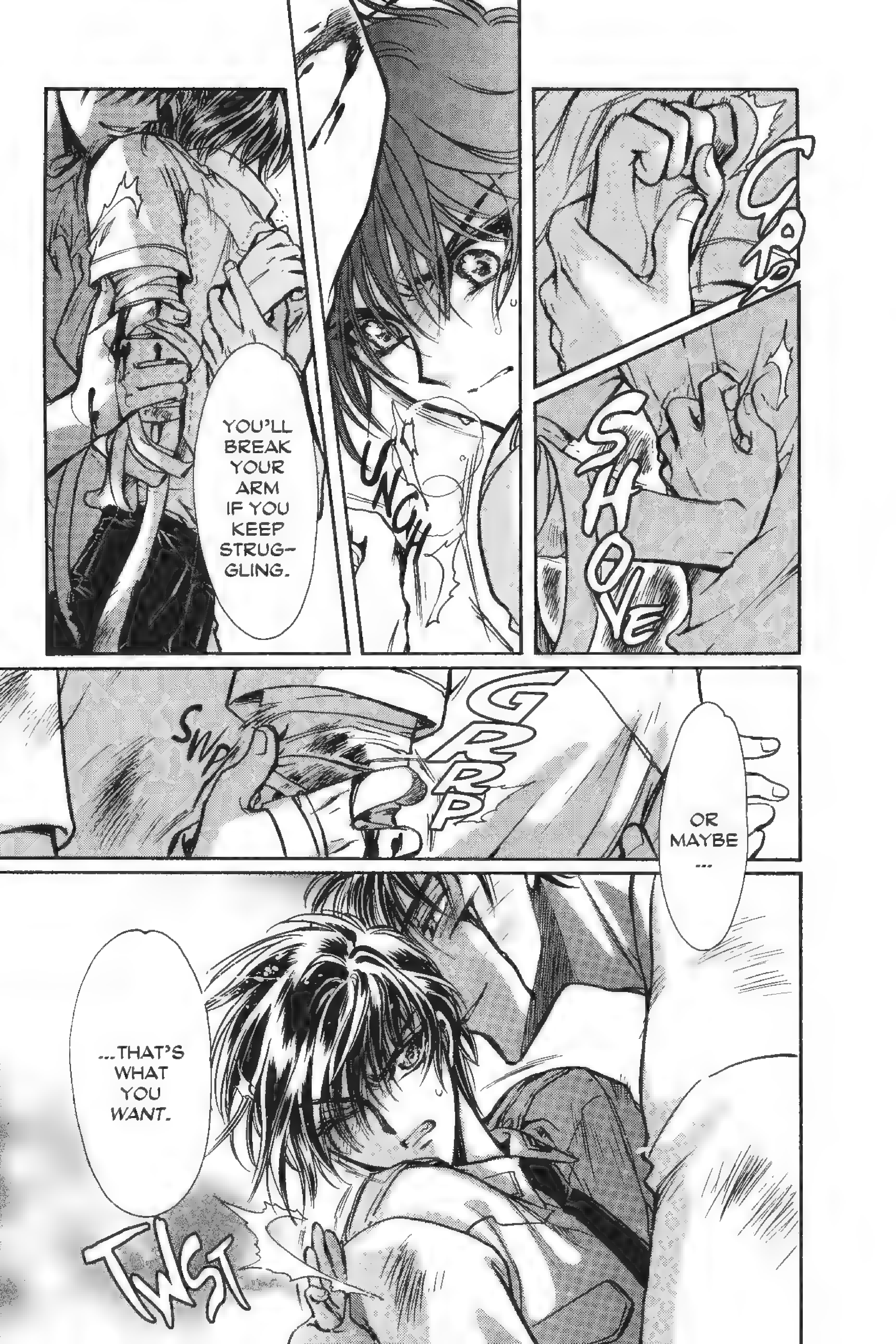

BAM
BAM
BA

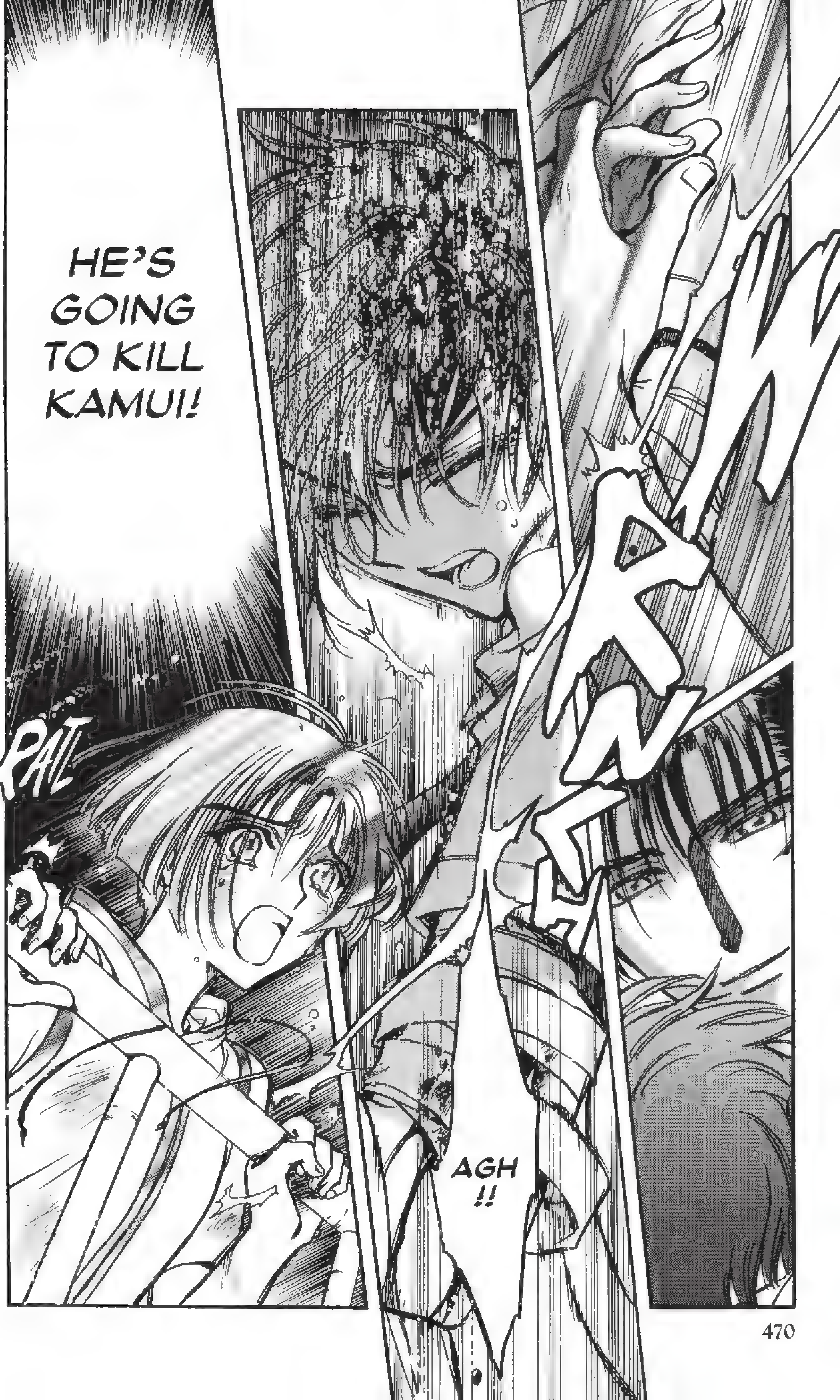

HYUU
WHAMM
WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM WHAM
ZASH
AH!

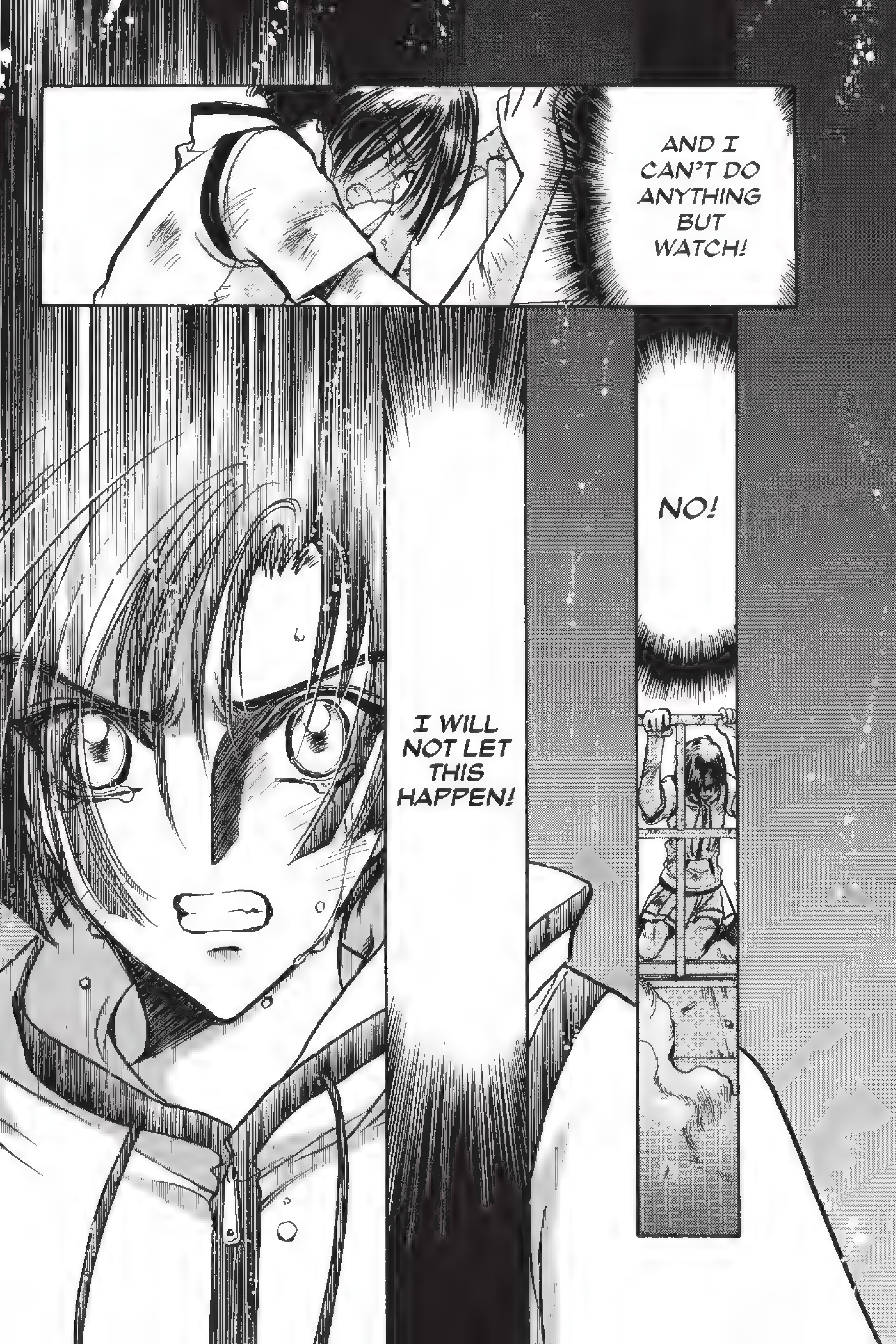

FSSSSH
TMP

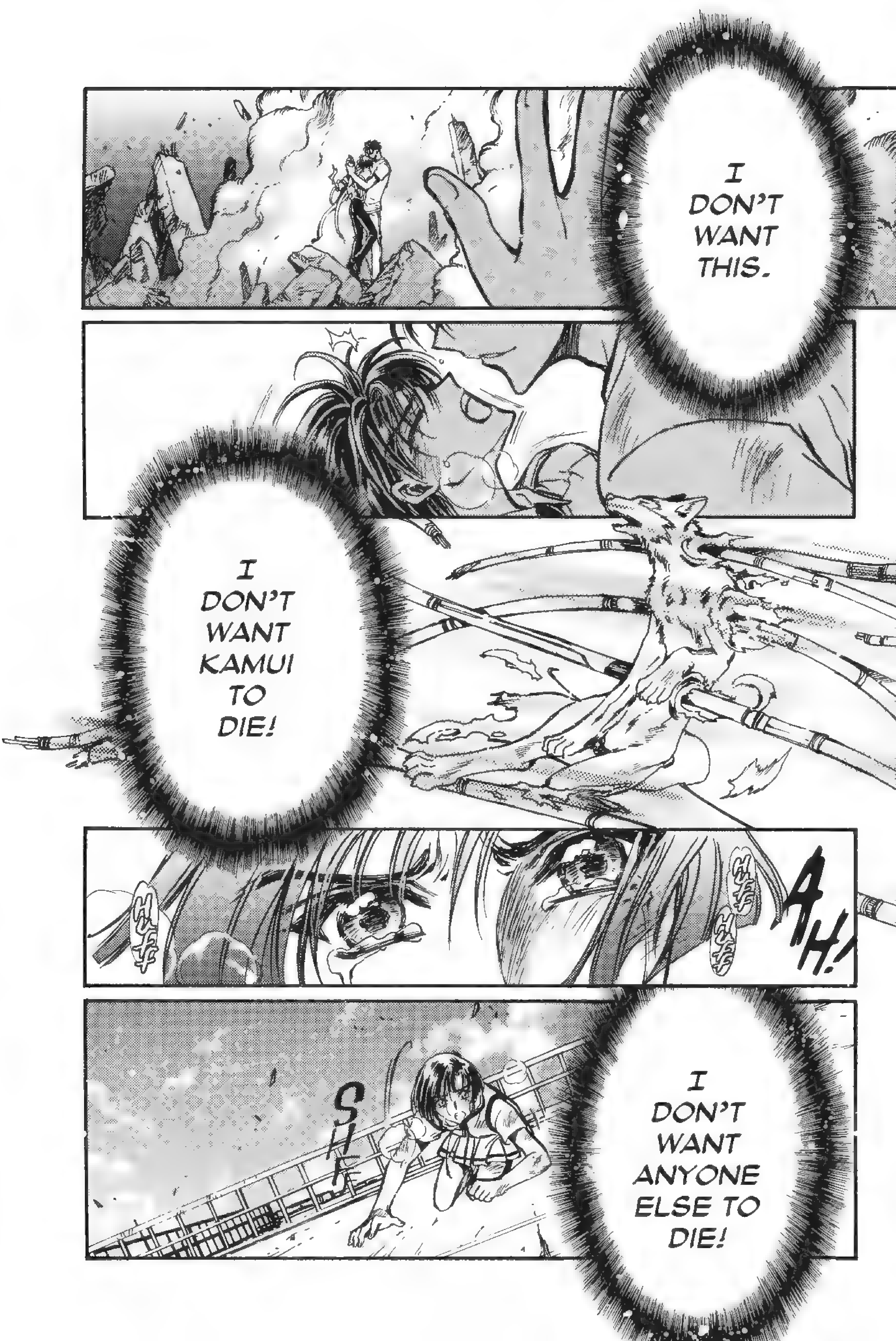

KAMUI!!
WHOOM
WHOA

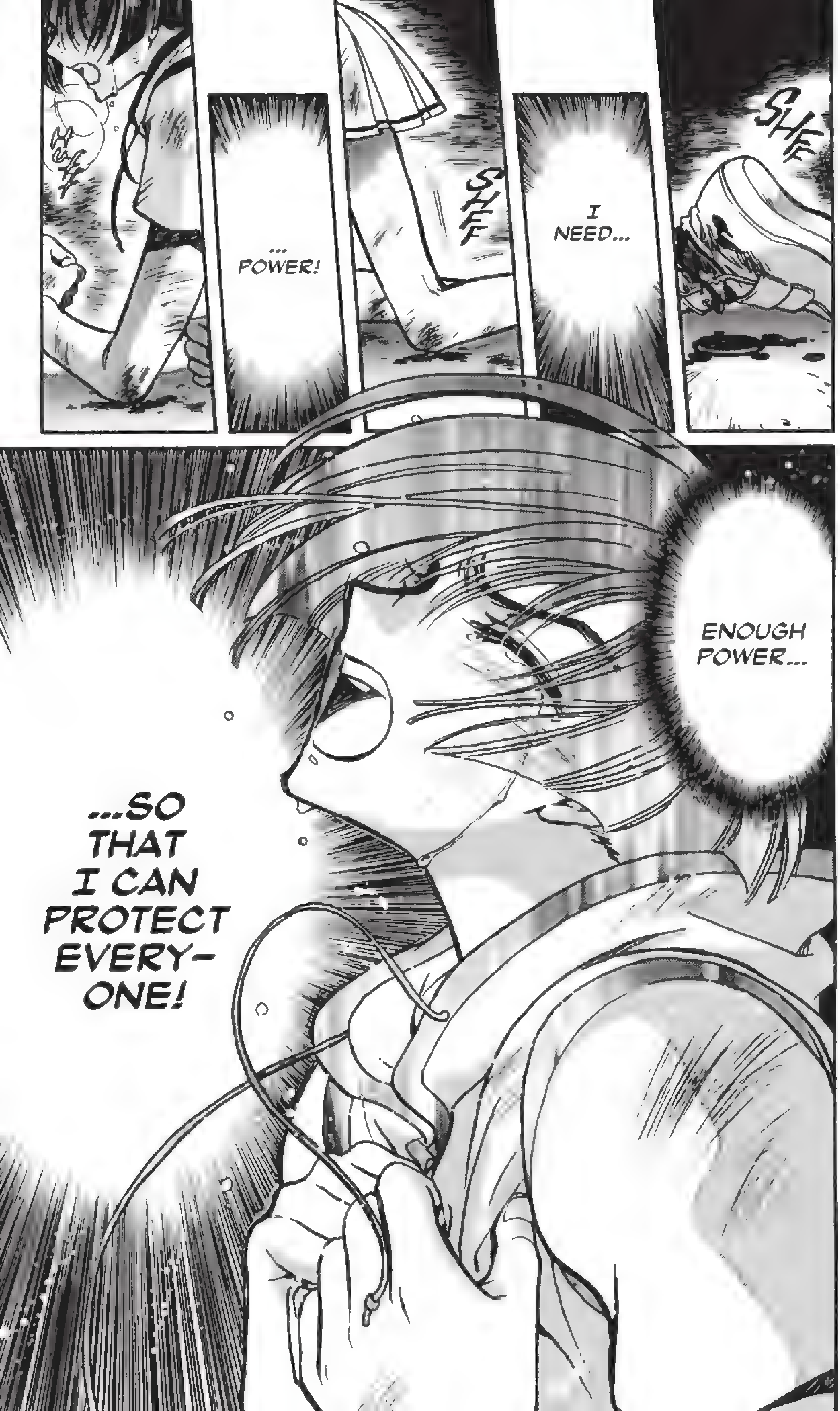

FSSSSSSHH
YANK
TWIST
YOU ARE TOO CUTE ...
... KAMUI.


GRAB
SHOVE
UNCH
YOU'LL BREAK YOUR ARM IF YOU KEEP STRUGGLING.
OR MAYBE ...
GRRP
SWP
...THAT'S WHAT YOU *WANT*.
TWST

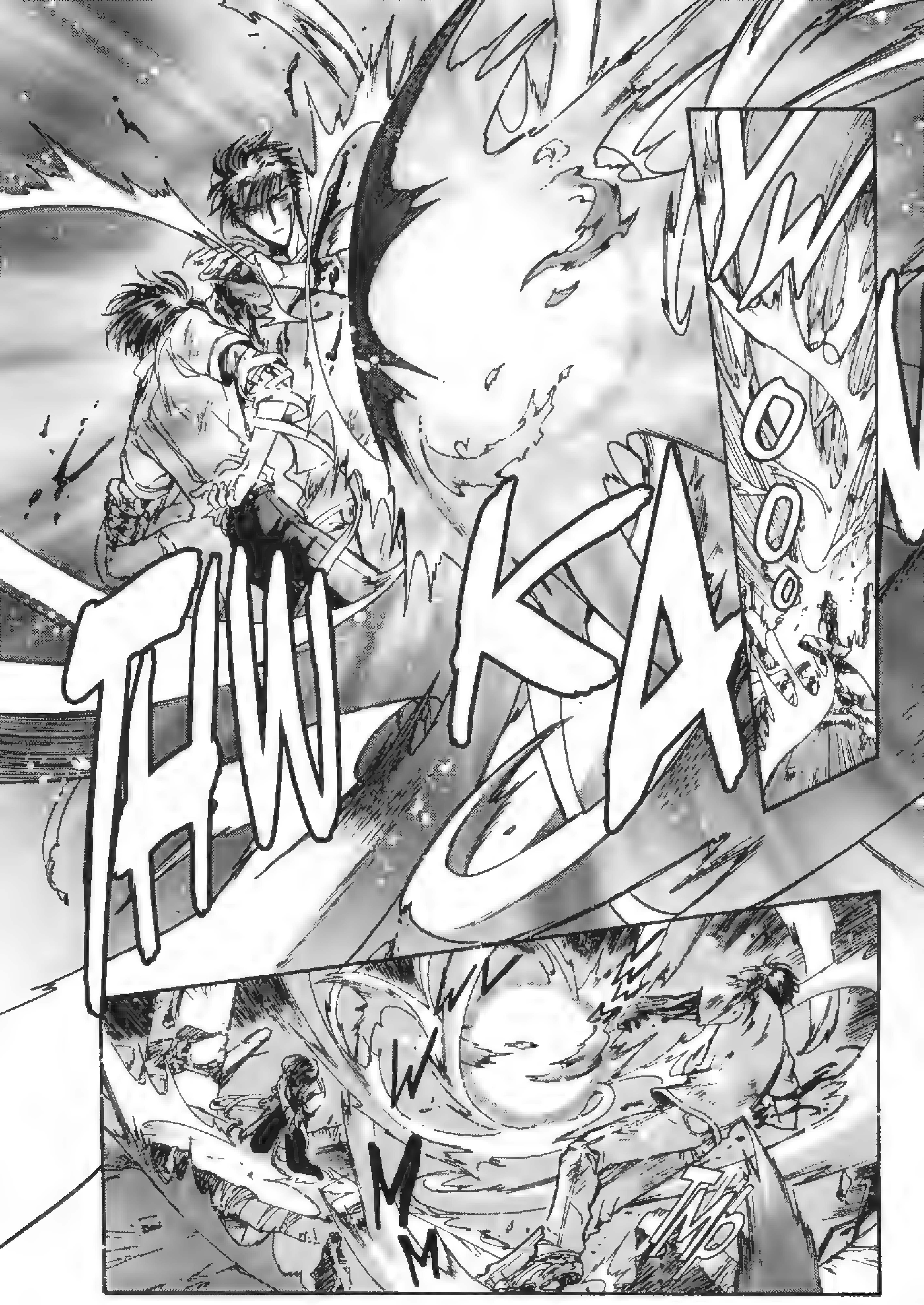

HE'S GOING TO KILL KAMUI!
RAT
AGH !!

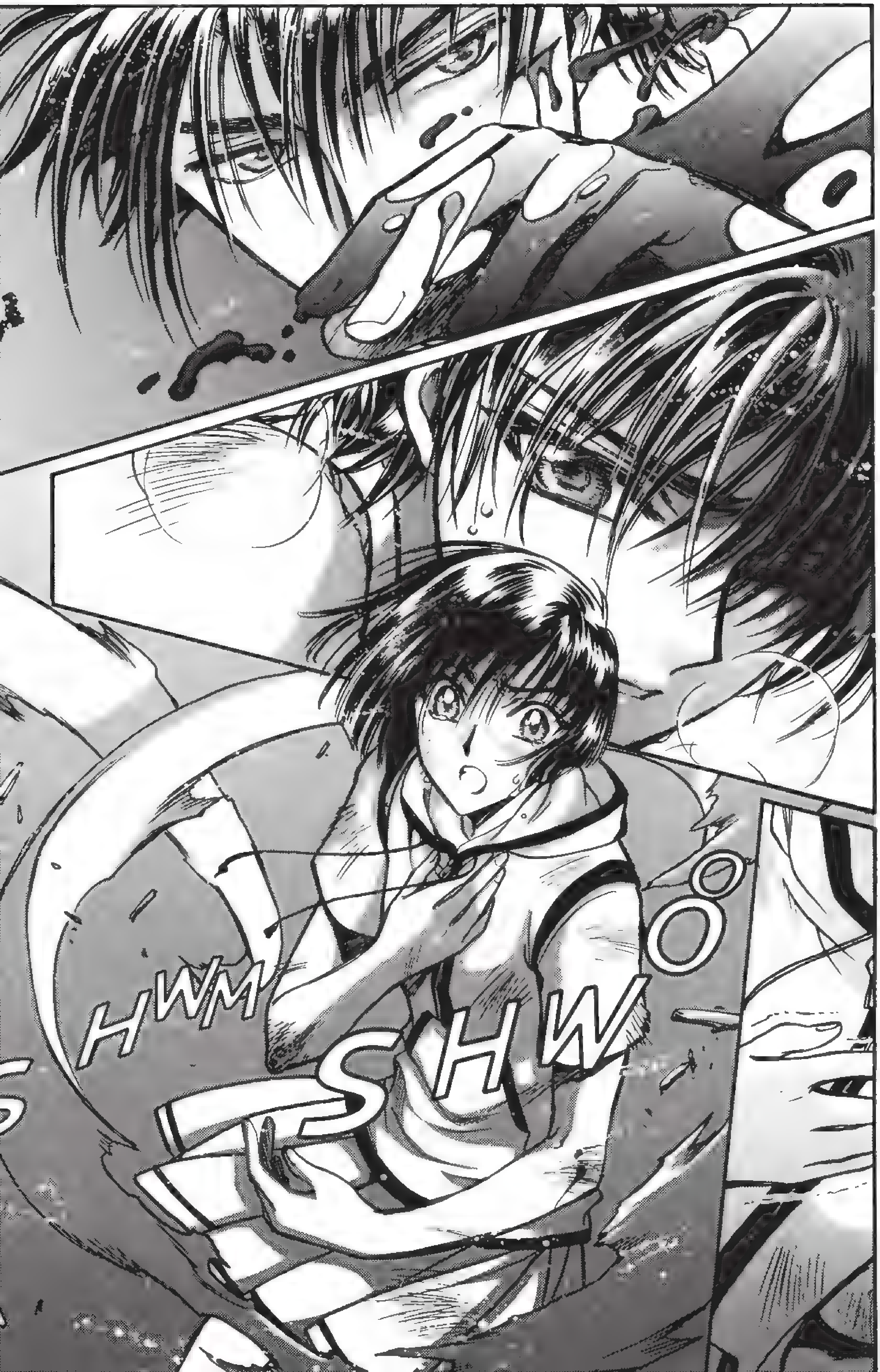

AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT WATCH!
NO!
I WILL NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!

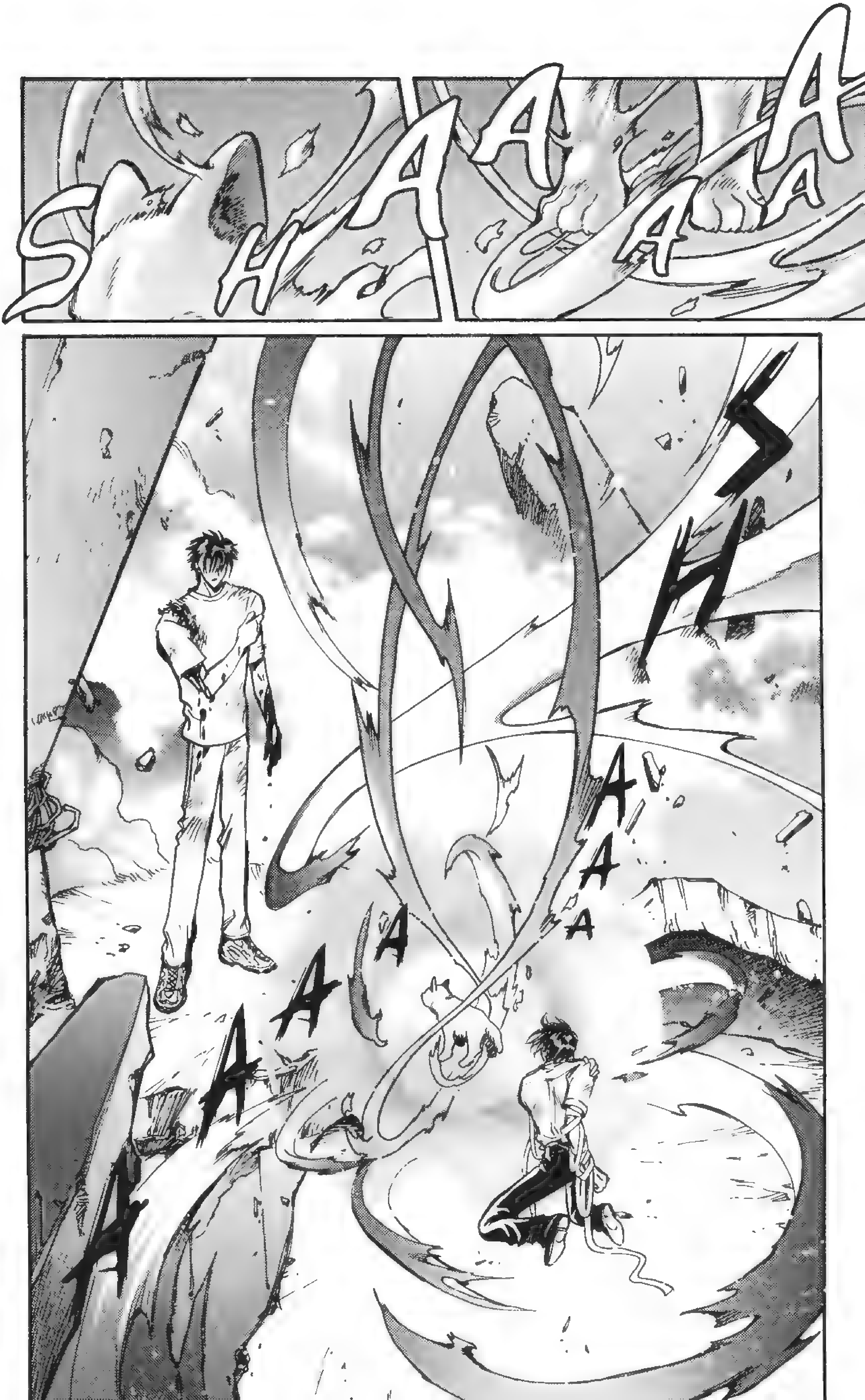

I DON'T WANT THIS.
I DON'T WANT KAMUI TO DIE!
AH!
HUFF HUFF
HUFF
SHF
I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO DIE!

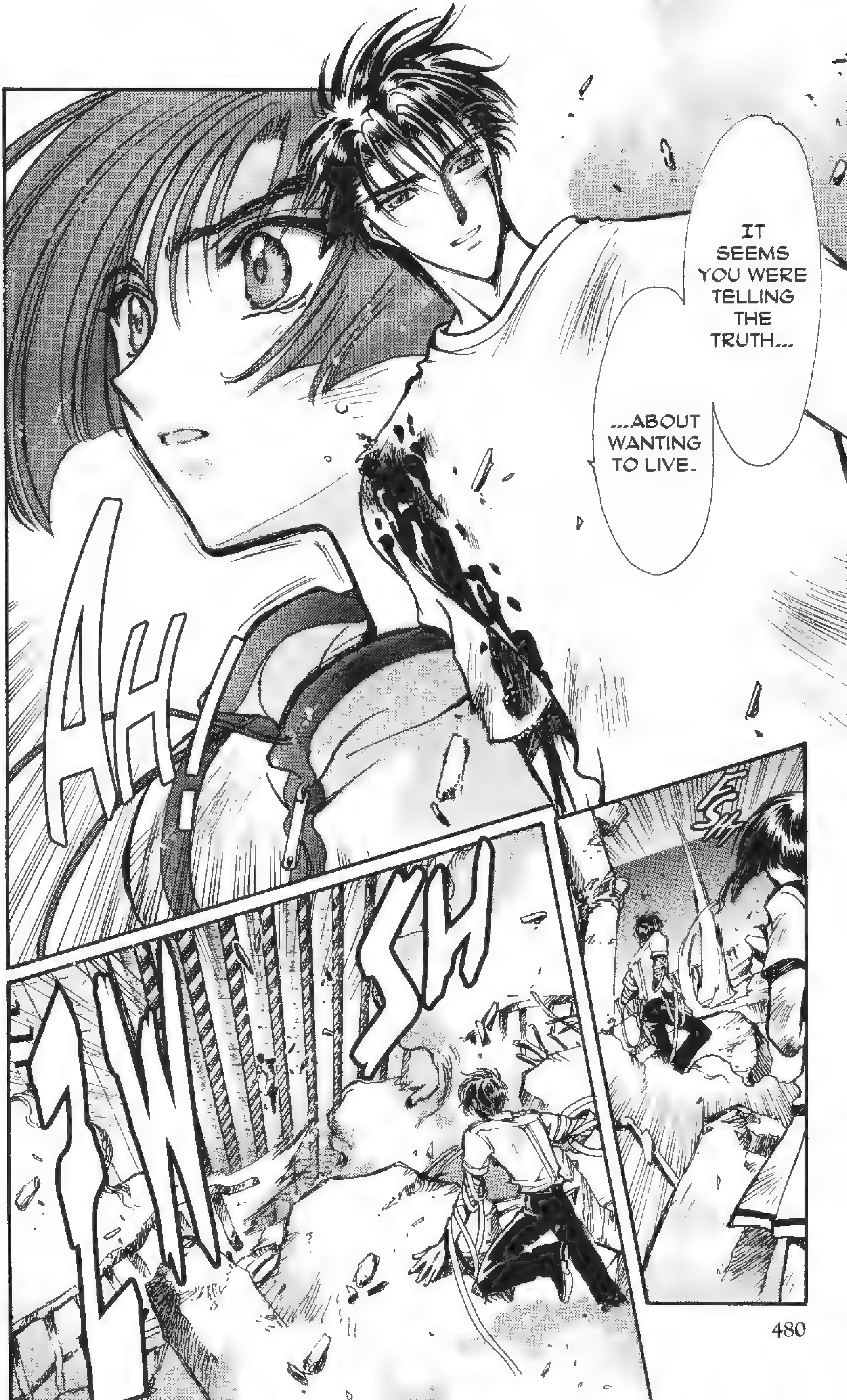

SHFF
I NEED...
SHFF
...POWER!
HUFF
ENOUGH POWER...
...SO THAT I CAN PROTECT EVERYONE!

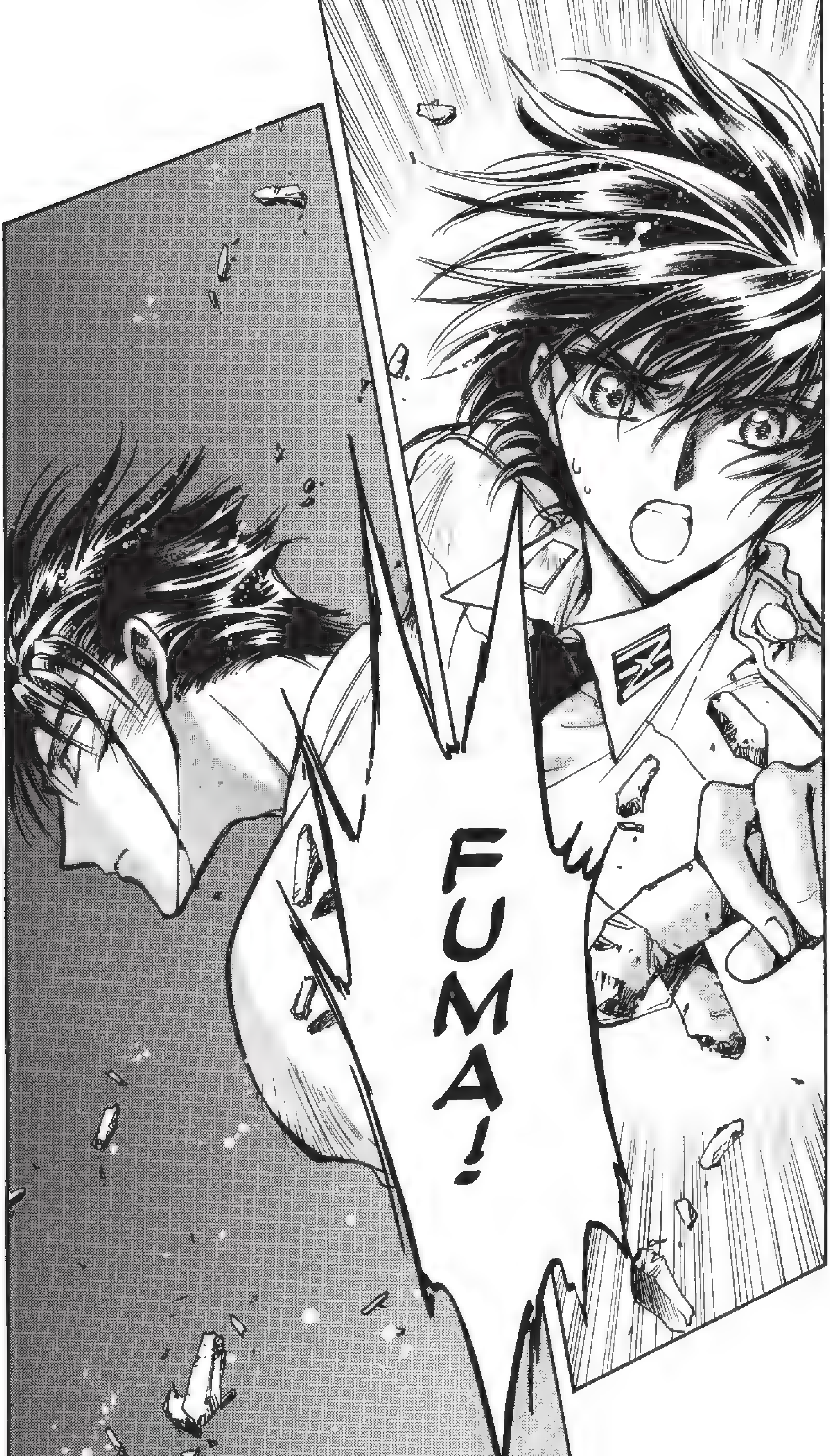
SHOOO

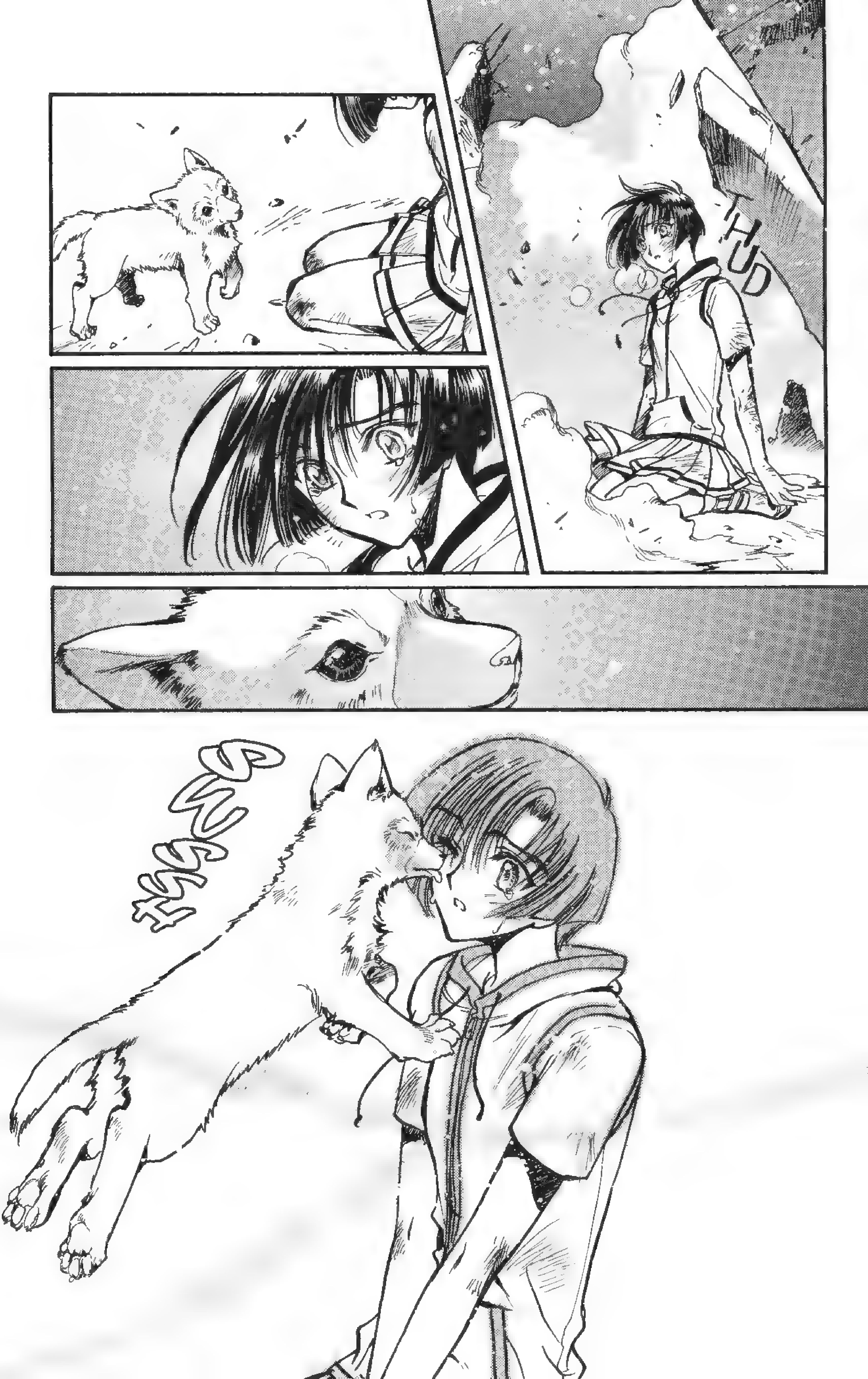

VWOOOO
THWKA
WWMM
TMP

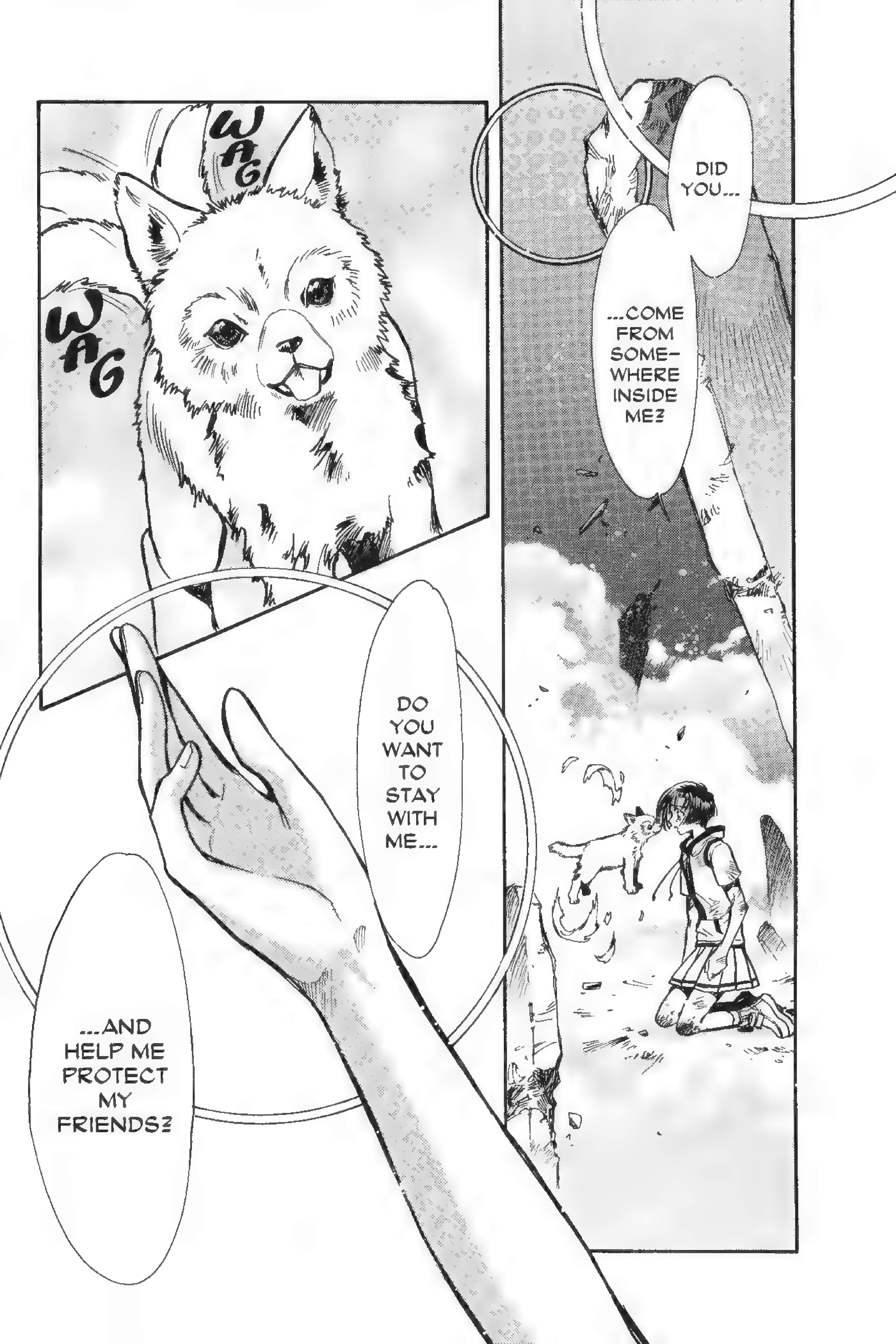

SHWO
HWM

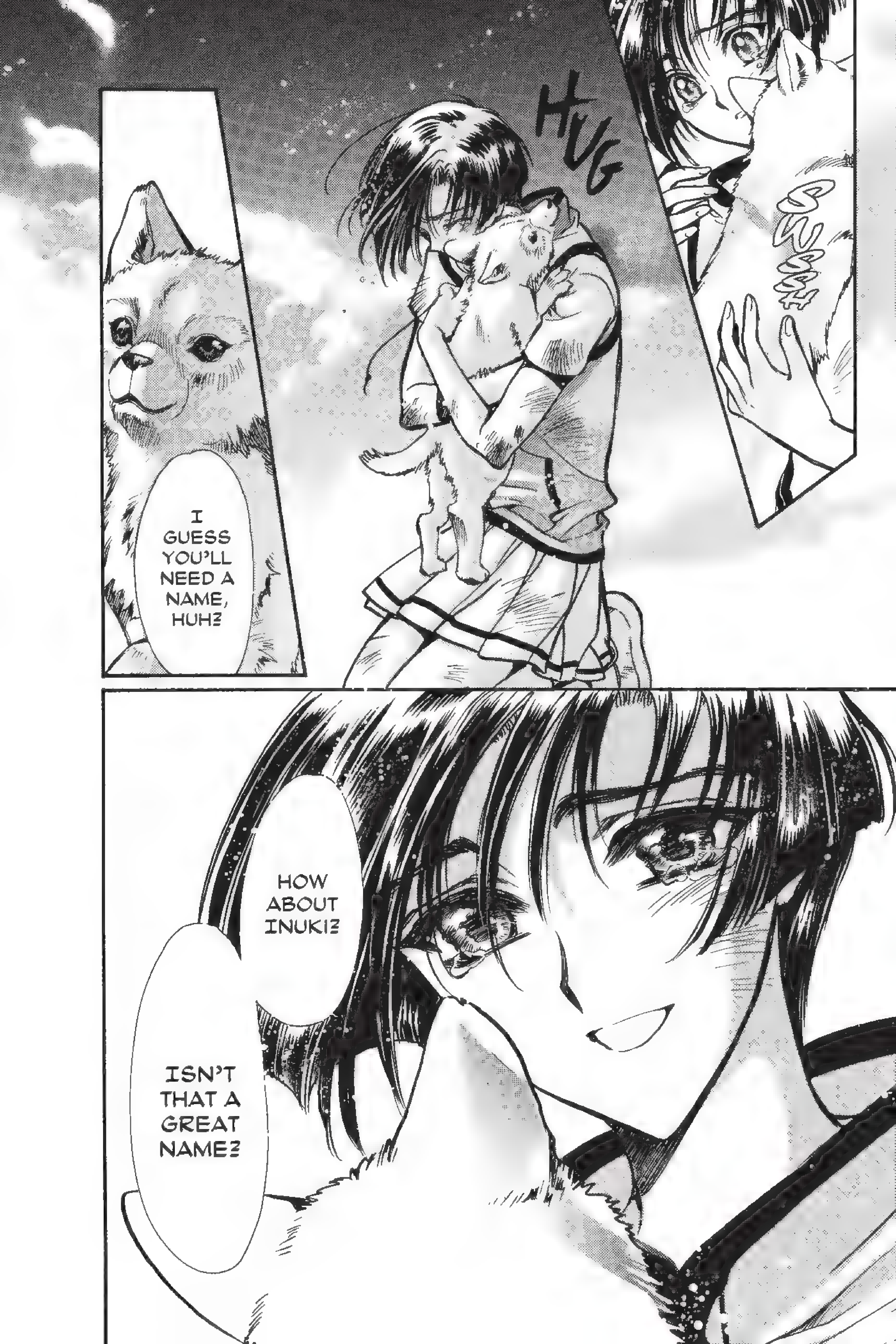

SHAAAAAAA
SHAAAAA
AAAAA

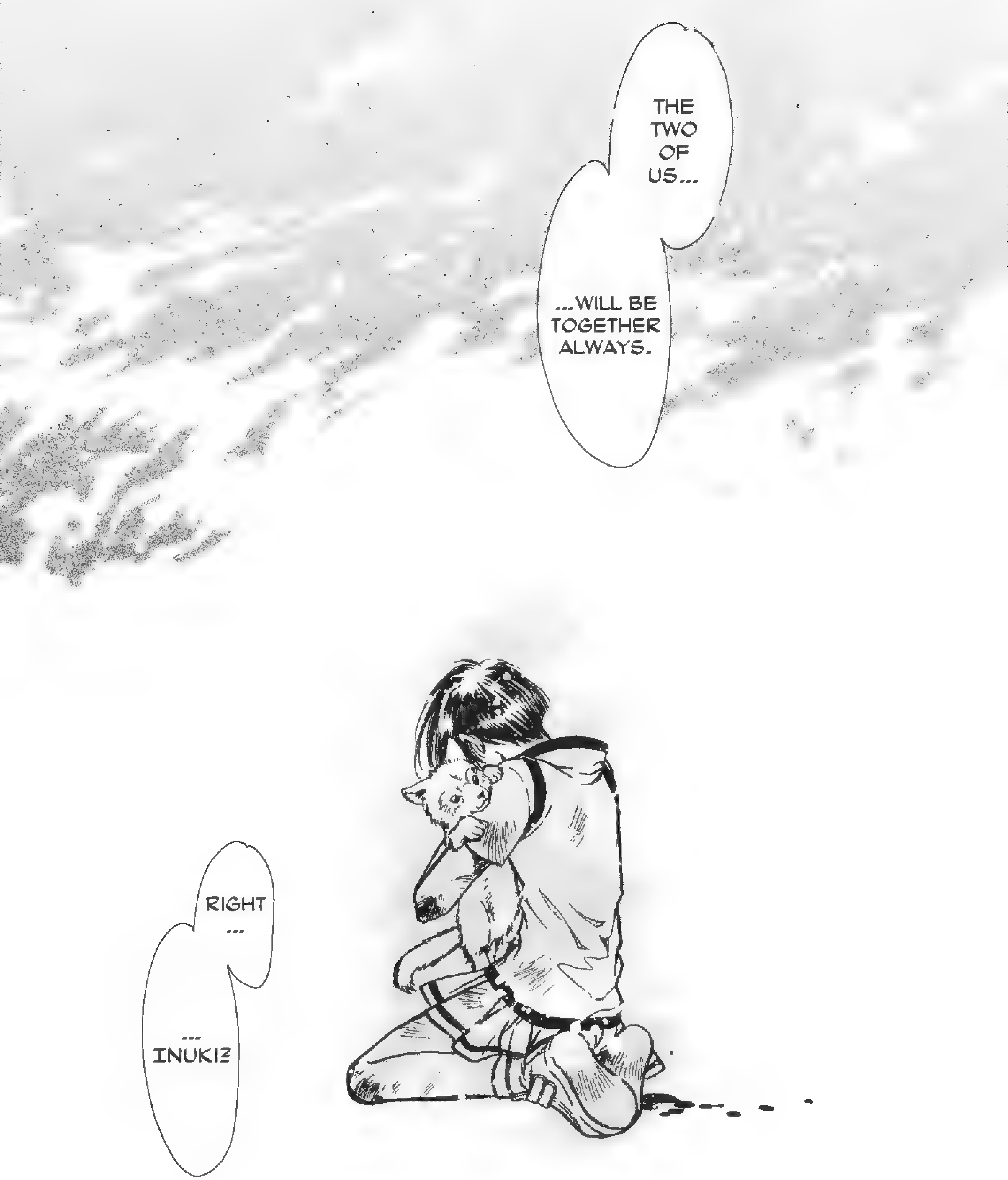

IT SEEMS YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH...
...ABOUT WANTING TO LIVE.
AH!
FSH
ZWSH

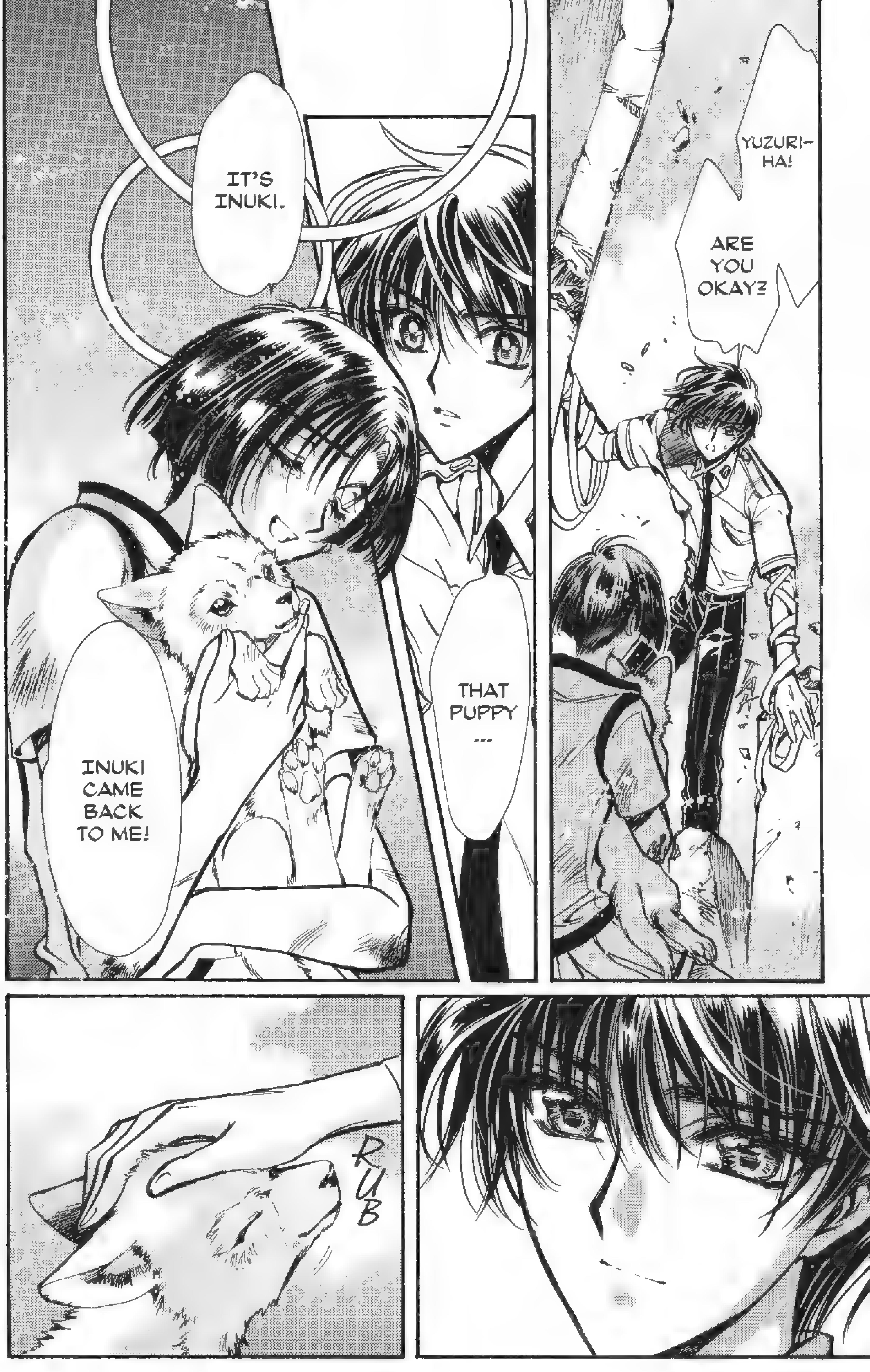

FUMA!!

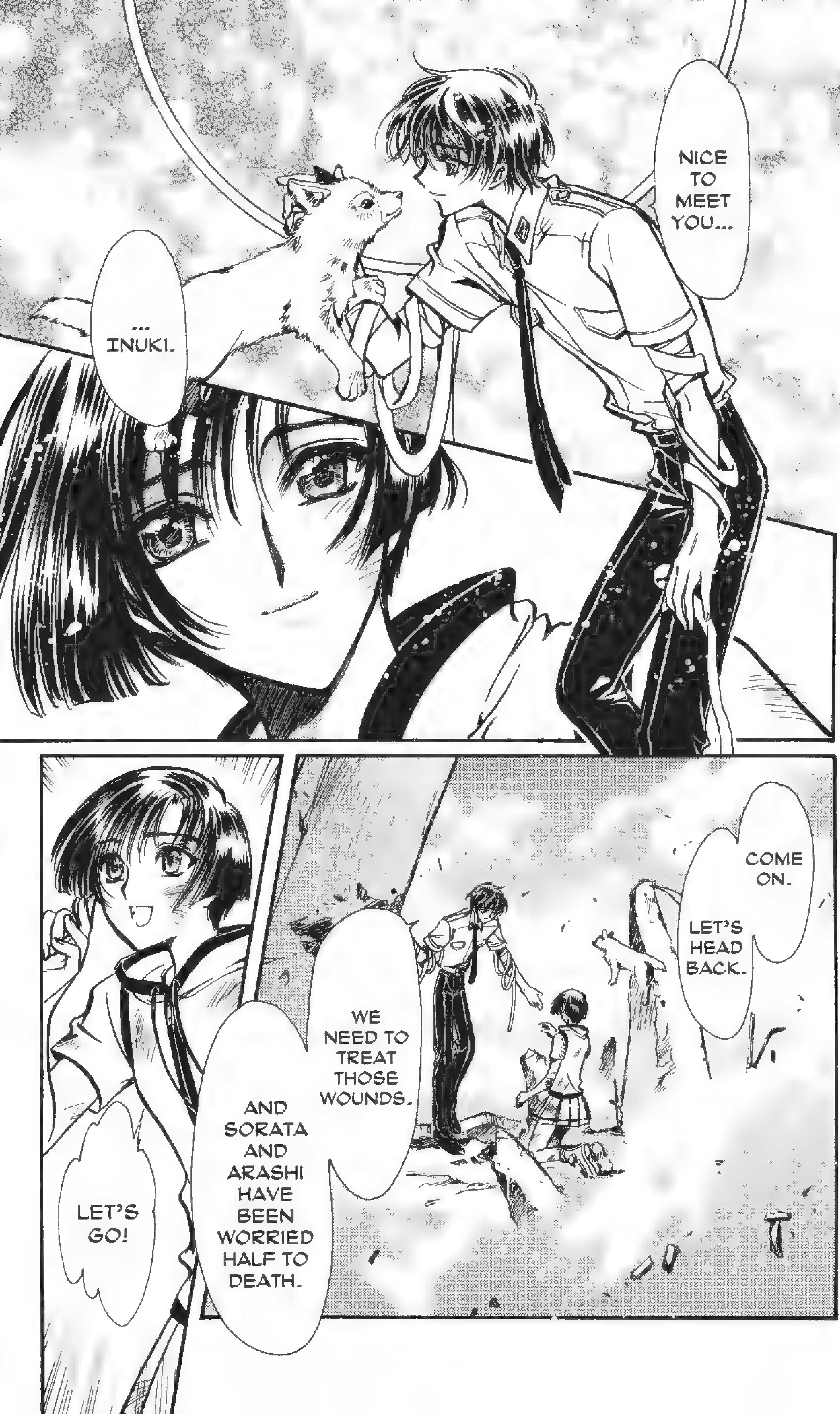

HUD
SWISH

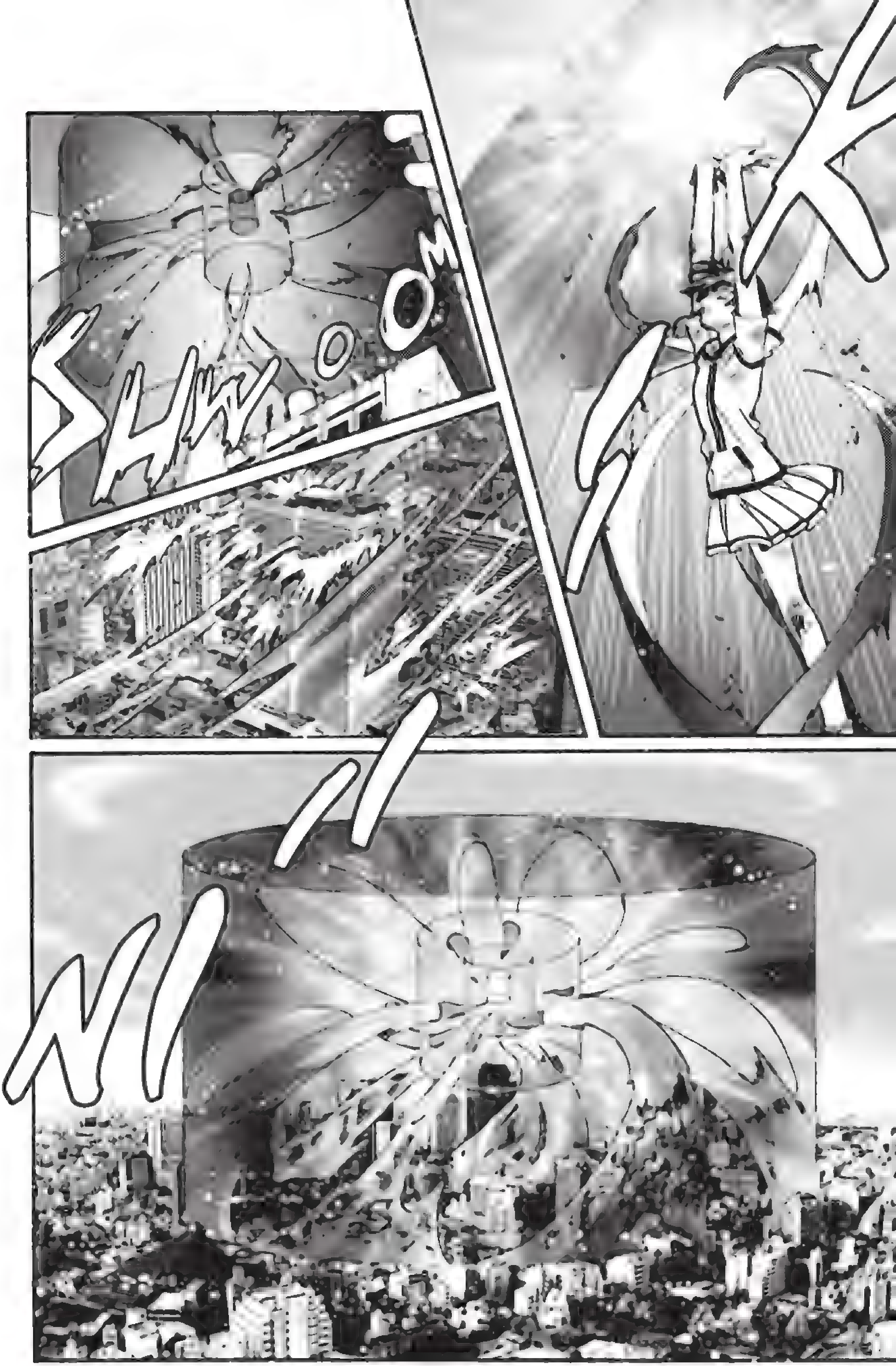

DID YOU...
...COME FROM SOMEWHERE INSIDE ME?
WAG
WAG
DO YOU WANT TO STAY WITH ME...
...AND HELP ME PROTECT MY FRIENDS?


SNIFF
HUG
I GUESS YOU'LL NEED A NAME, HUH?
HOW ABOUT INUKI?
ISN'T THAT A GREAT NAME?

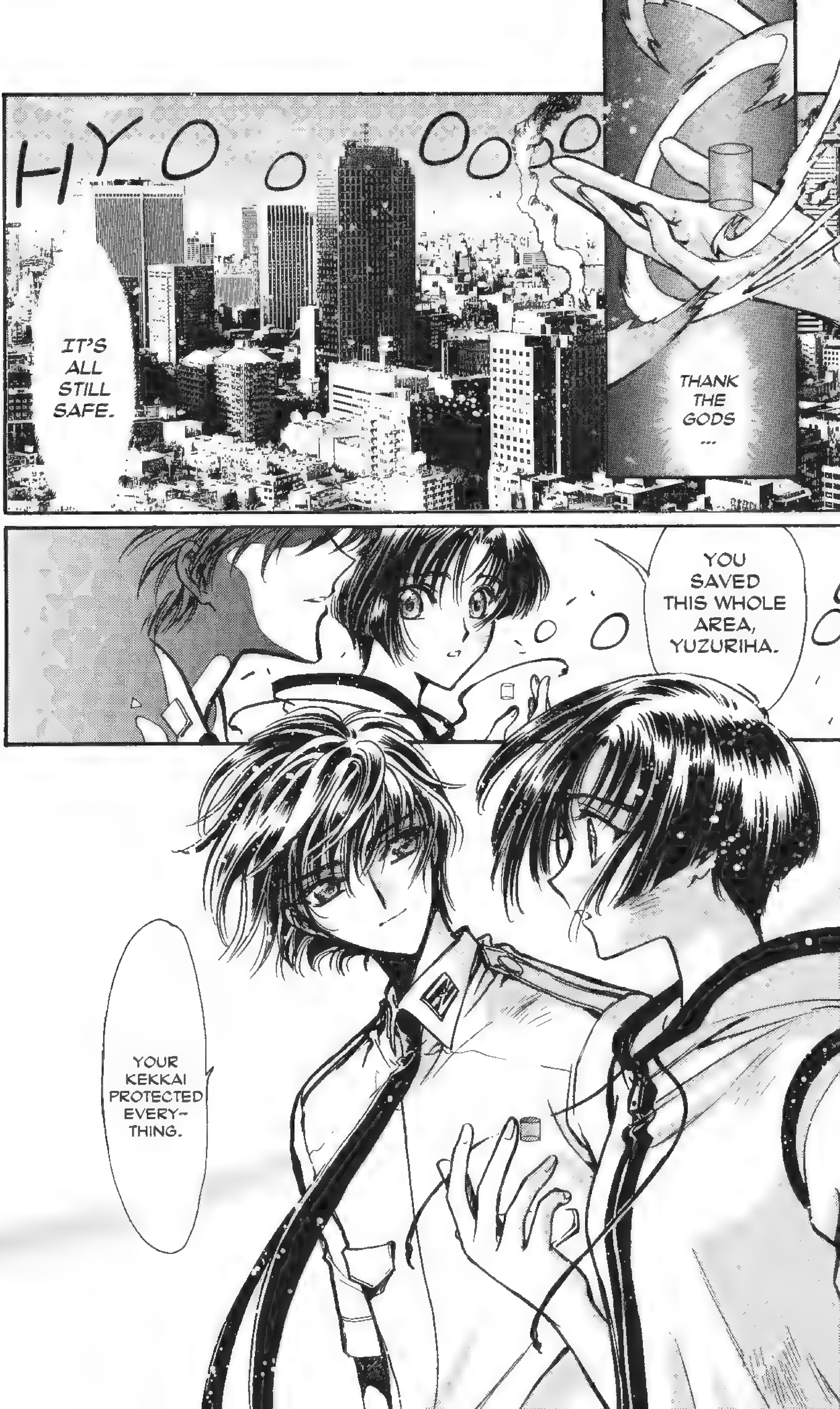

THE TWO OF US...
...WILL BE TOGETHER ALWAYS.
RIGHT...
...INUKI?

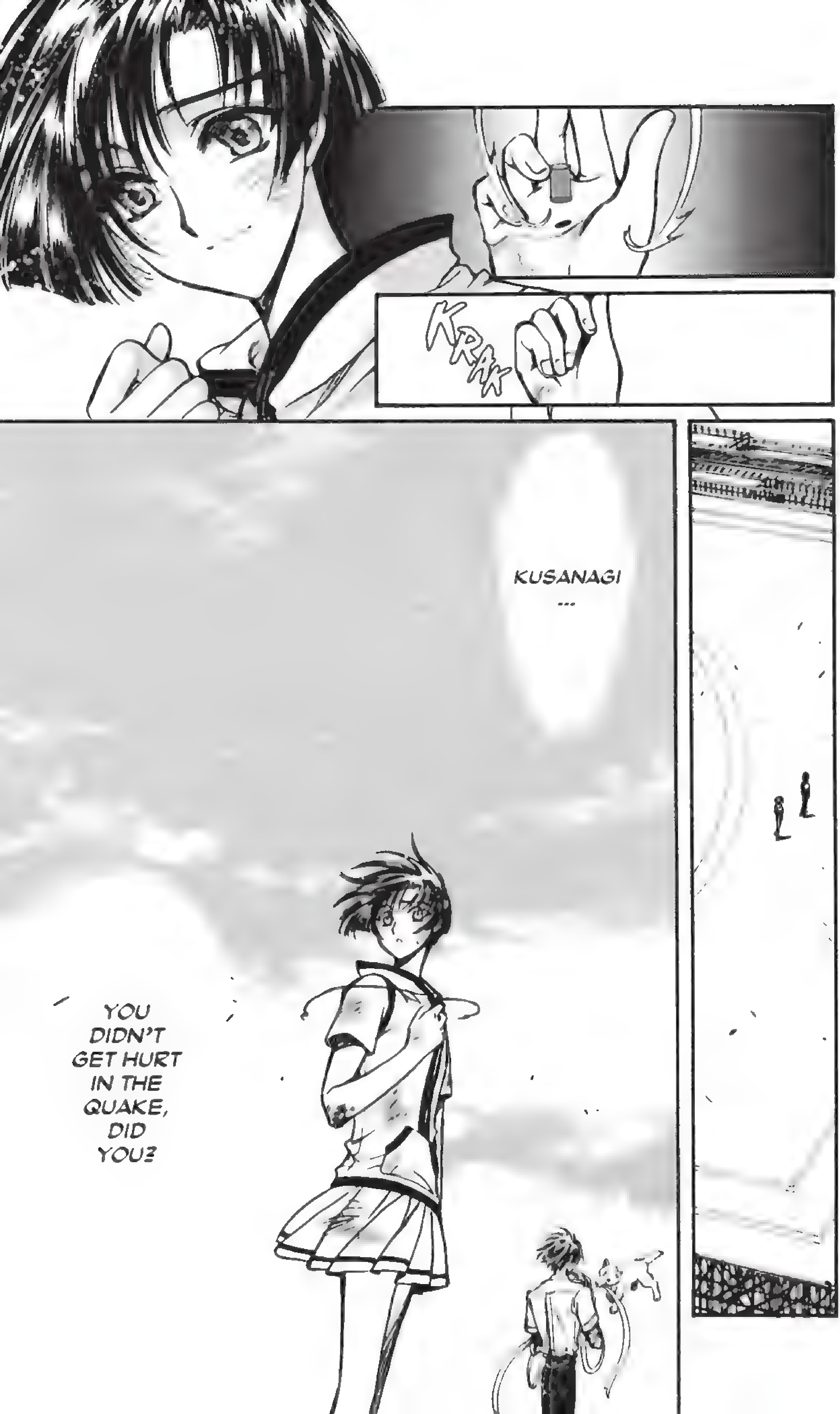

YUZURI-HA!
ARE YOU OKAY?
TA
IT'S INUKI...
THAT PUPPY...
INUKI CAME BACK TO ME!
RUB

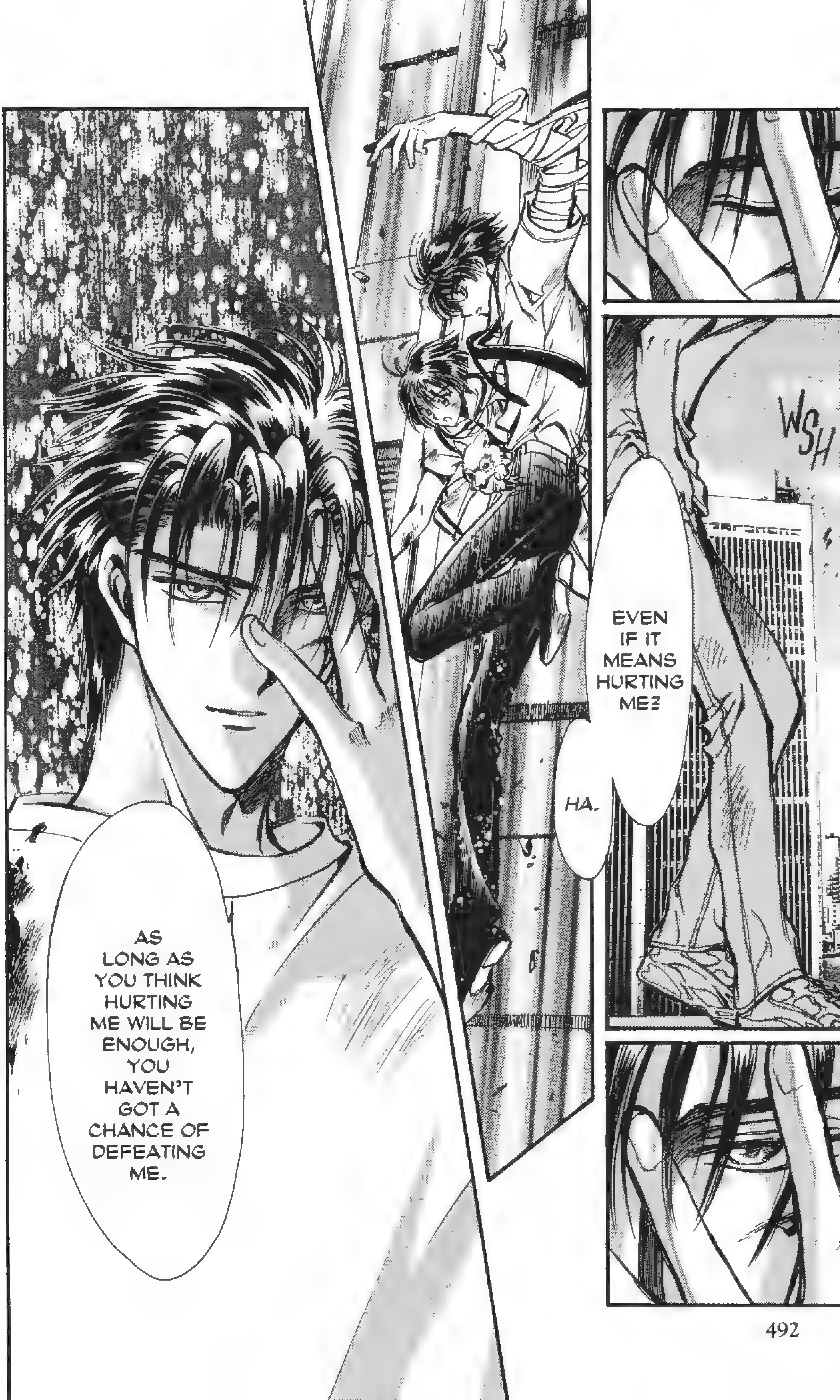

NICE TO MEET YOU...
...INUKI.
COME ON.
LET'S HEAD BACK.
WE NEED TO TREAT THOSE WOUNDS.
AND SORATA AND ARASHI HAVE BEEN WORRIED HALF TO DEATH.
LET'S GO!


SHWOOOM

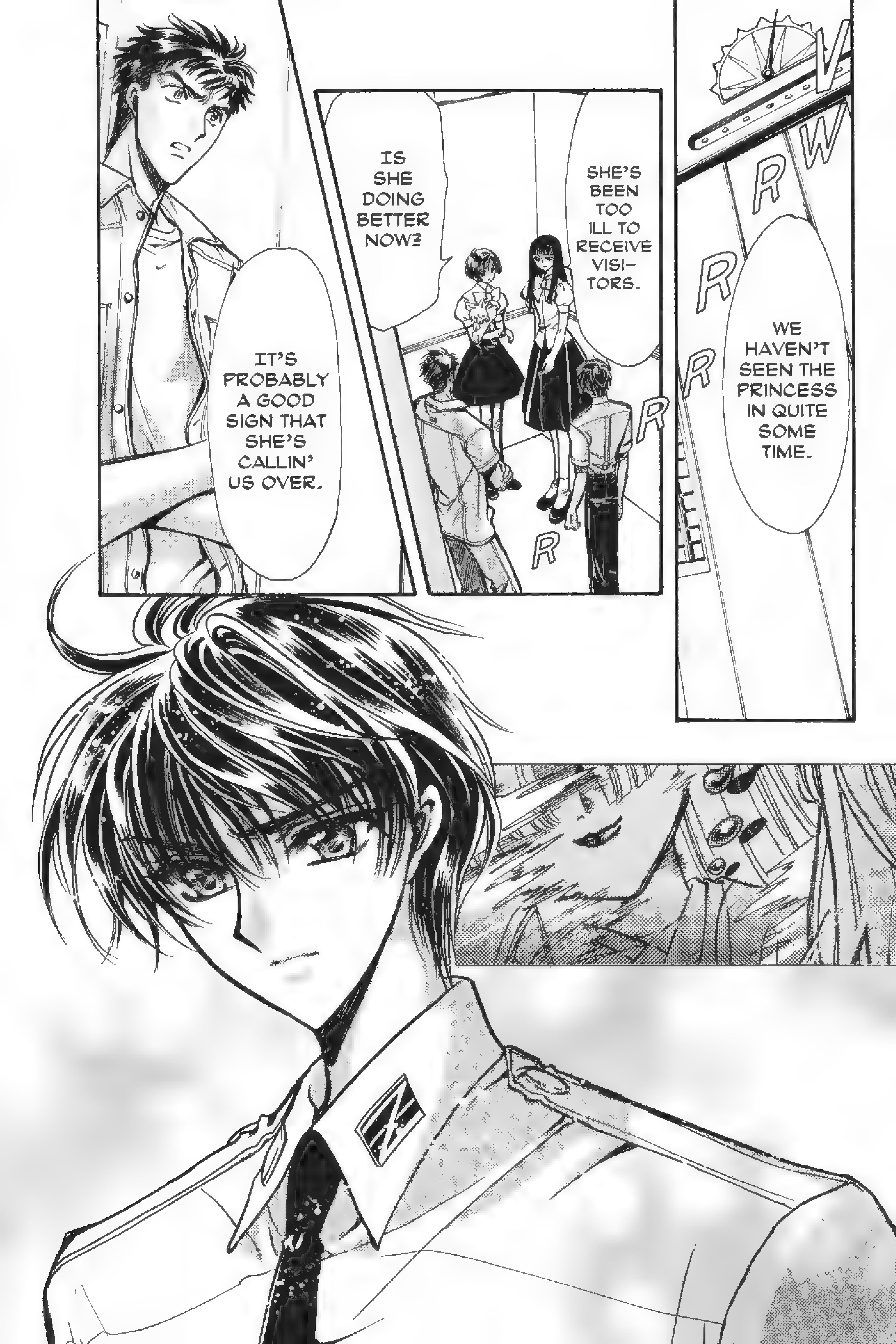
NIIIK

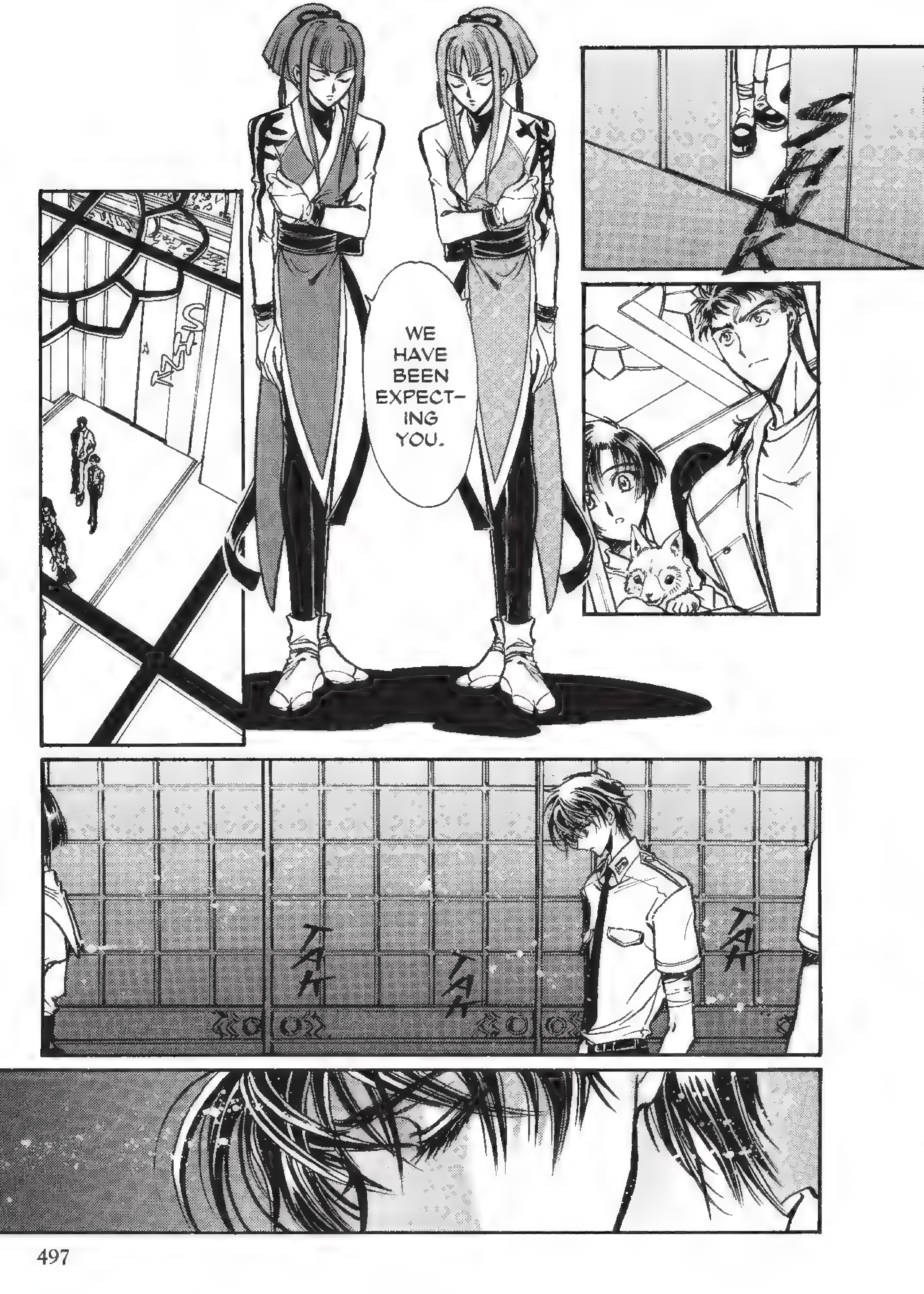

HYO o OOOO
THANK THE GODS ...
IT'S ALL STILL SAFE.
YOU SAVED THIS WHOLE AREA, YUZURIHA.
YOUR KEKKAI PROTECTED EVERYTHING.

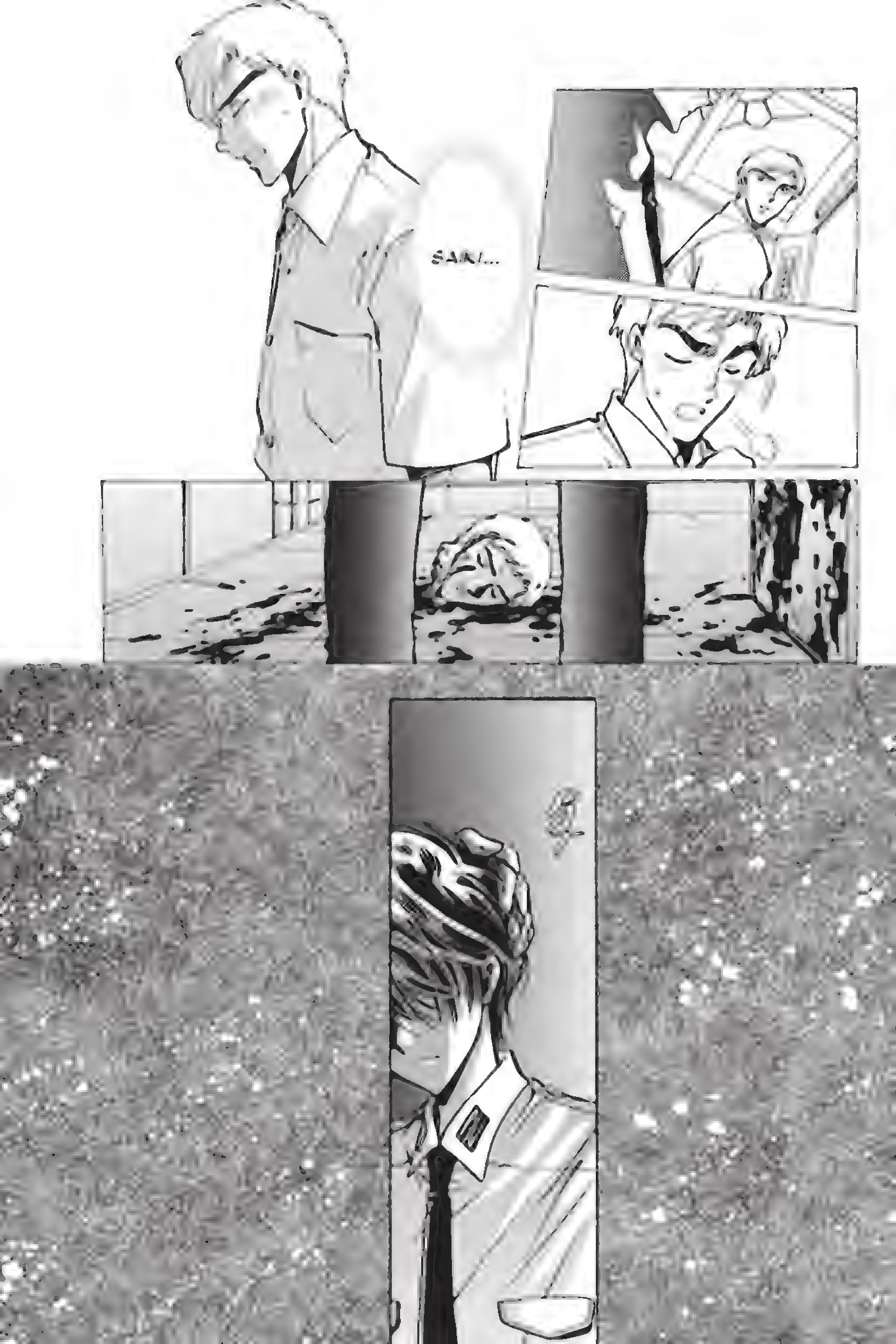

KRAK
KUSANAGI ...
YOU DIDN'T GET HURT IN THE QUAKE, DID YOU?

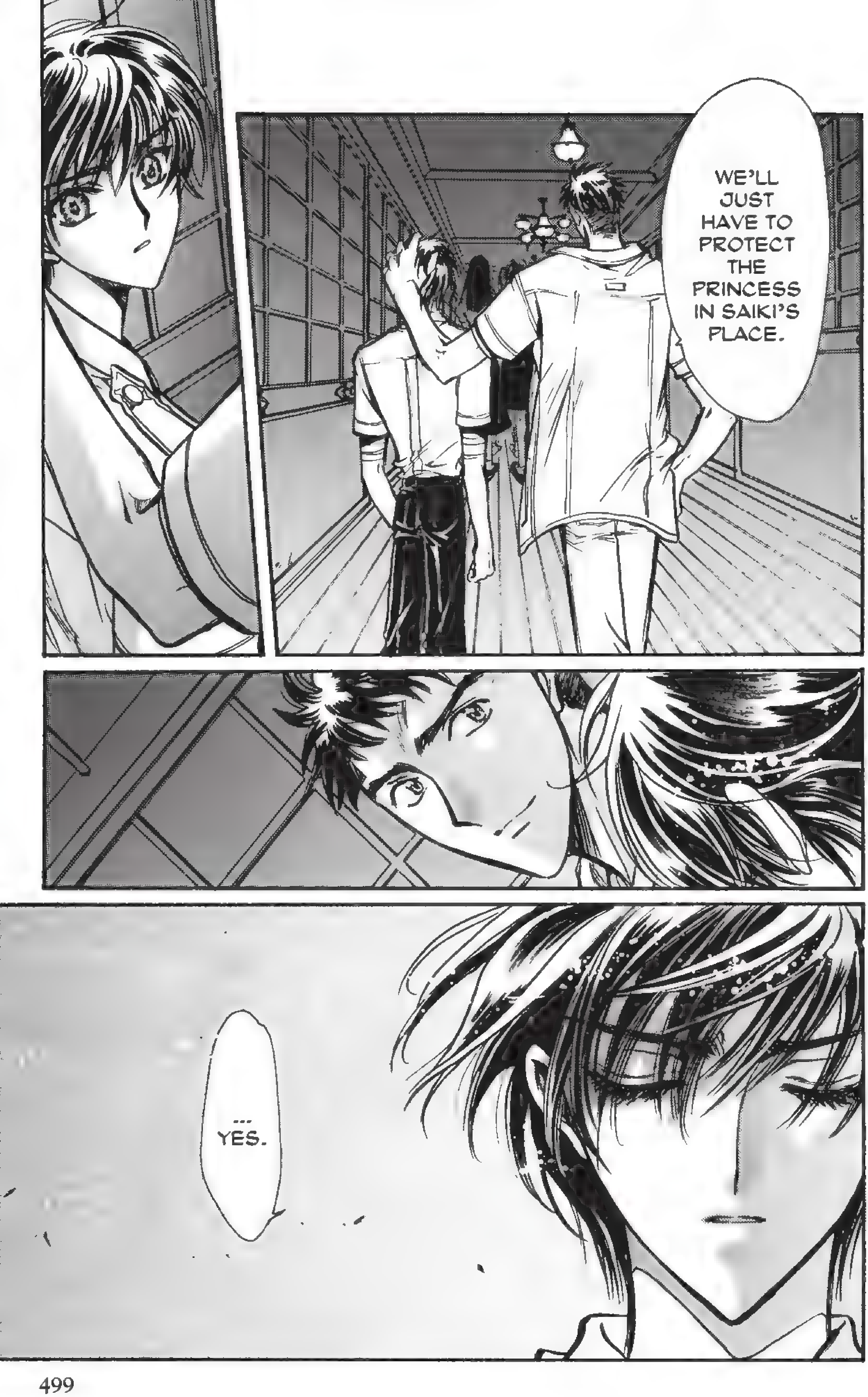

WSH
EVEN IF IT MEANS HURTING ME?
HA.
AS LONG AS YOU THINK HURTING ME WILL BE ENOUGH, YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE OF DEFEATING ME.

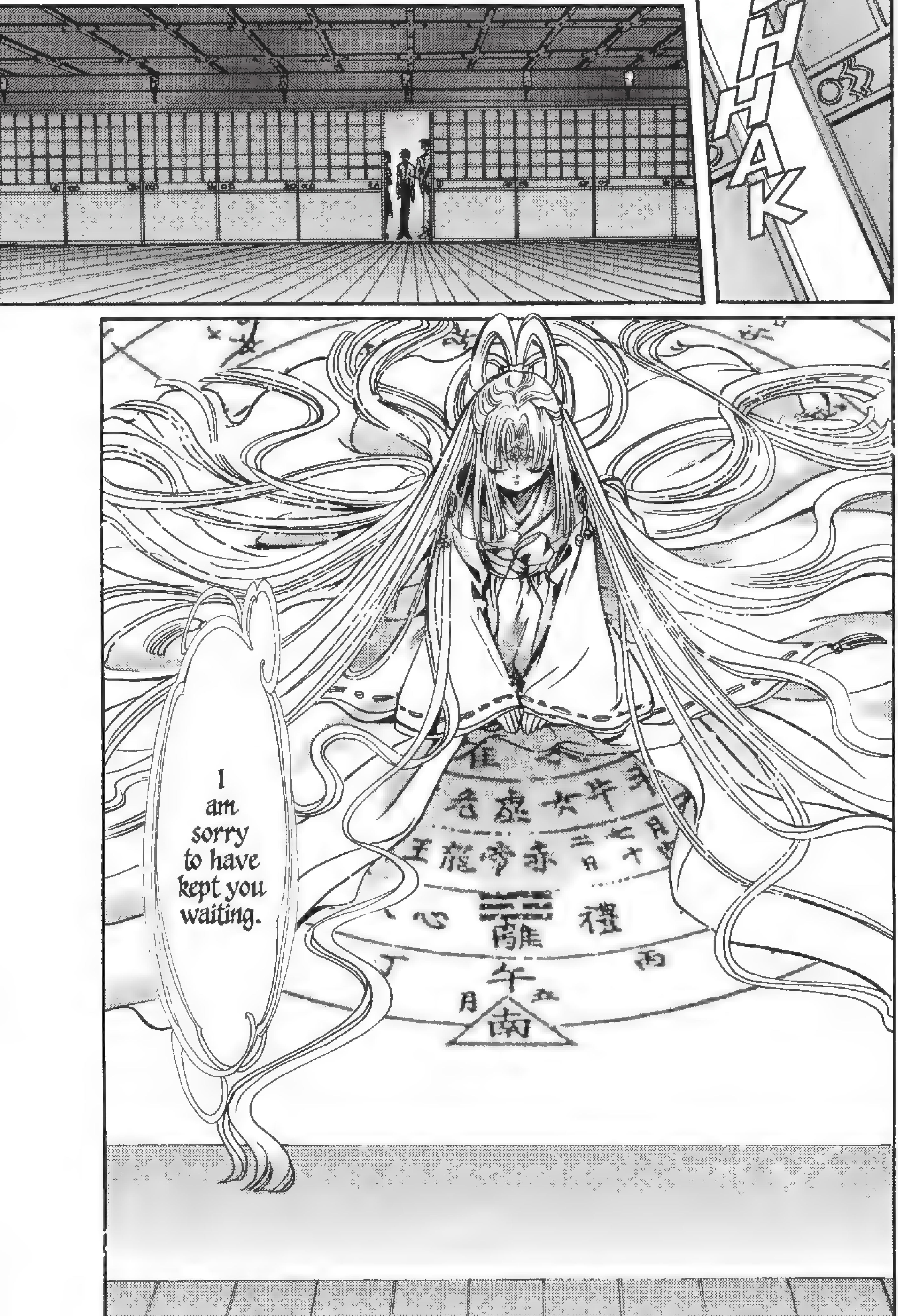
KAMUI
...

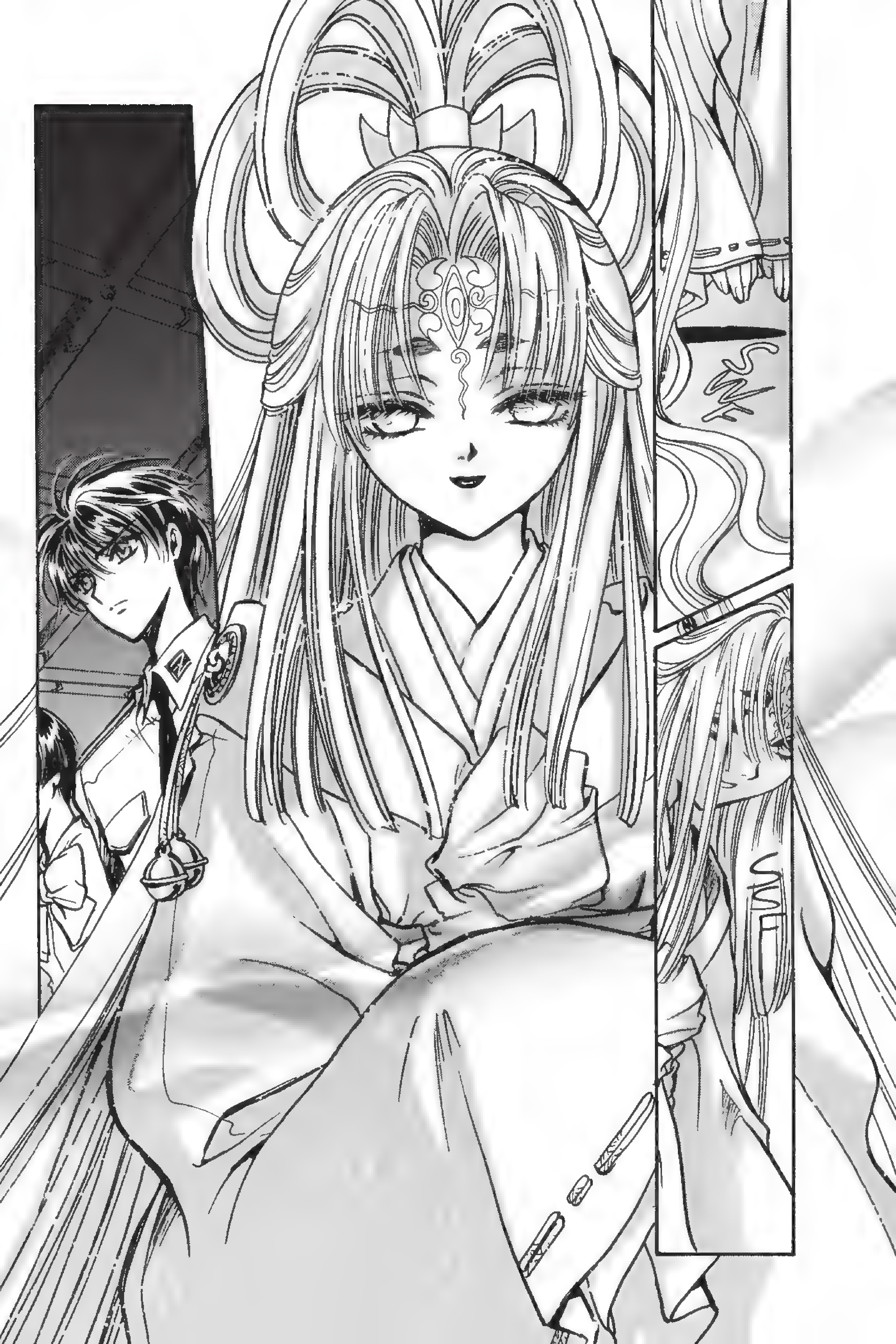

VRRRRRRRW
WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE PRINCESS IN QUITE SOME TIME.
SHE'S BEEN TOO ILL TO RECEIVE VISITORS.
IS SHE DOING BETTER NOW?
IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD SIGN THAT SHE'S CALLIN' US OVER.

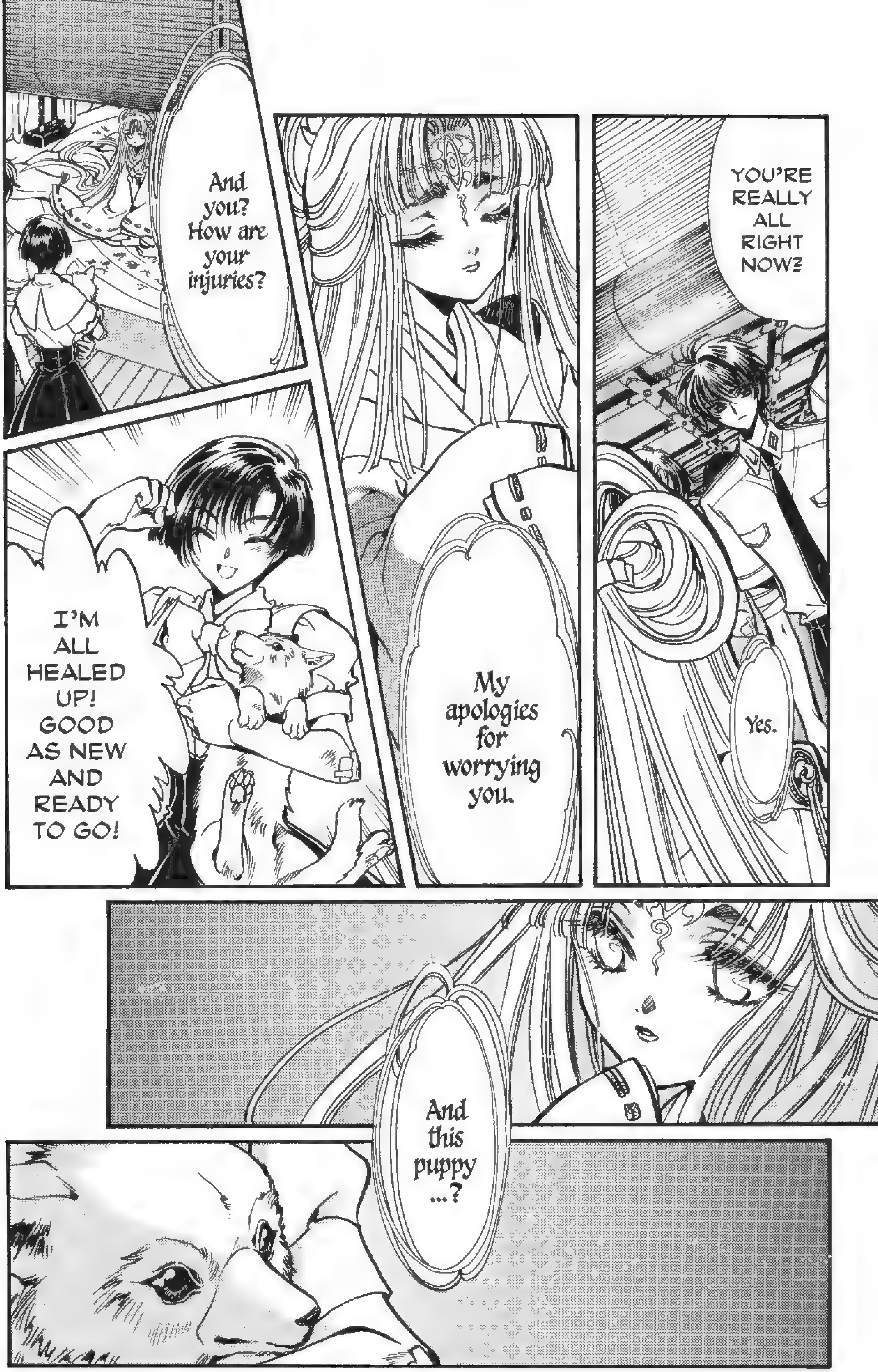

WE HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
TAH
TAH
TAH

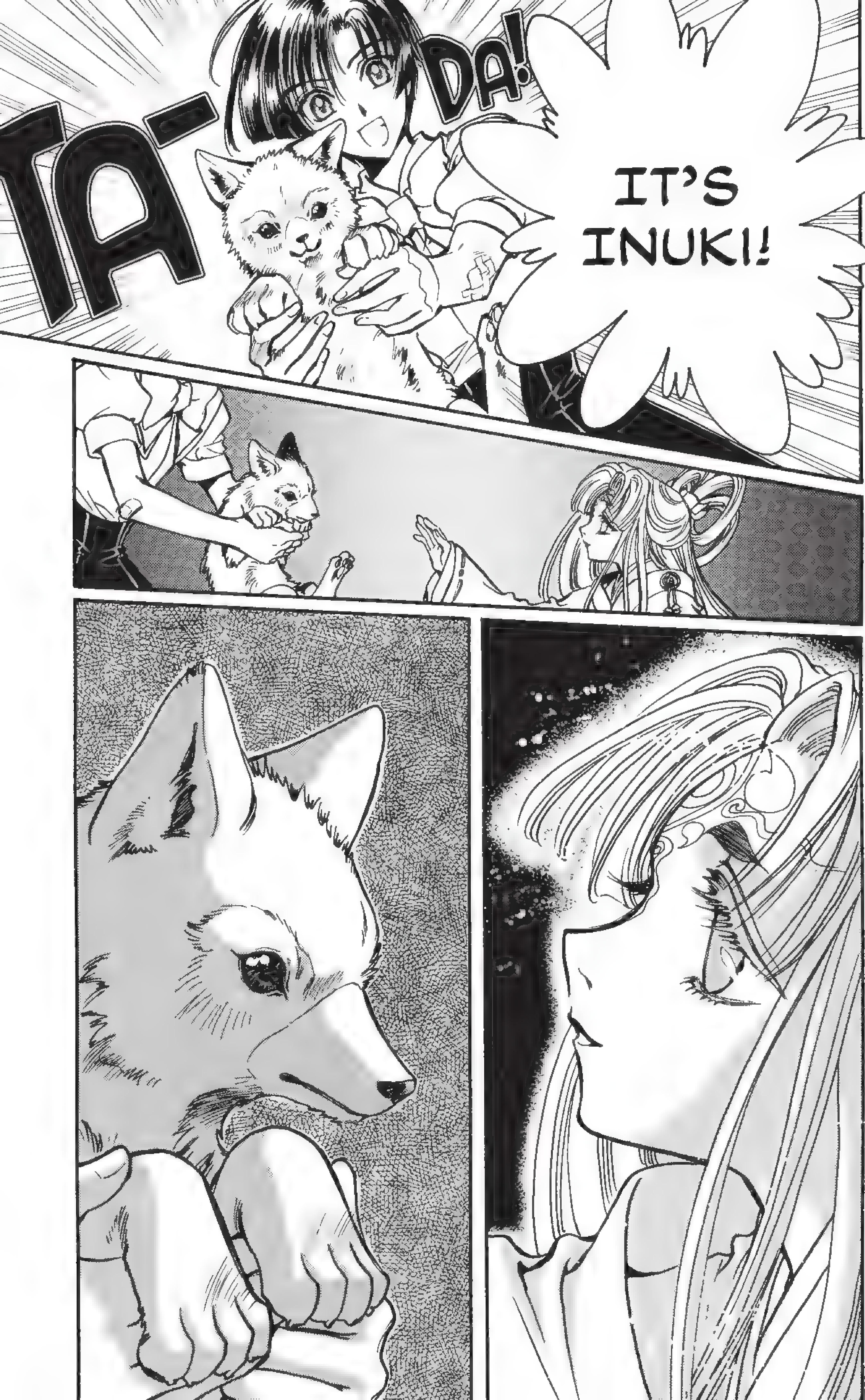

SAIKI...

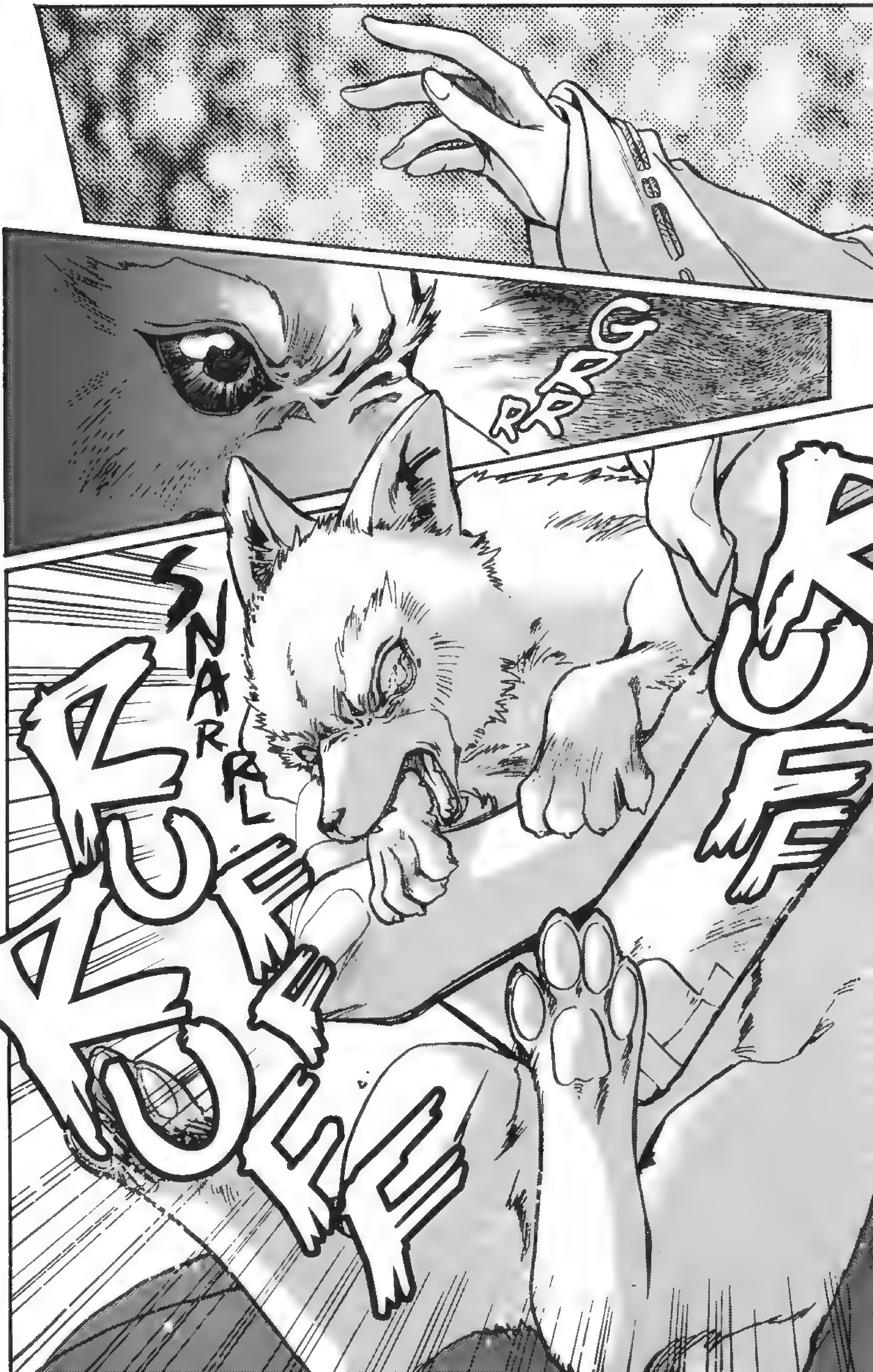

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PROTECT THE PRINCESS IN SAIKI'S PLACE.
... YES.

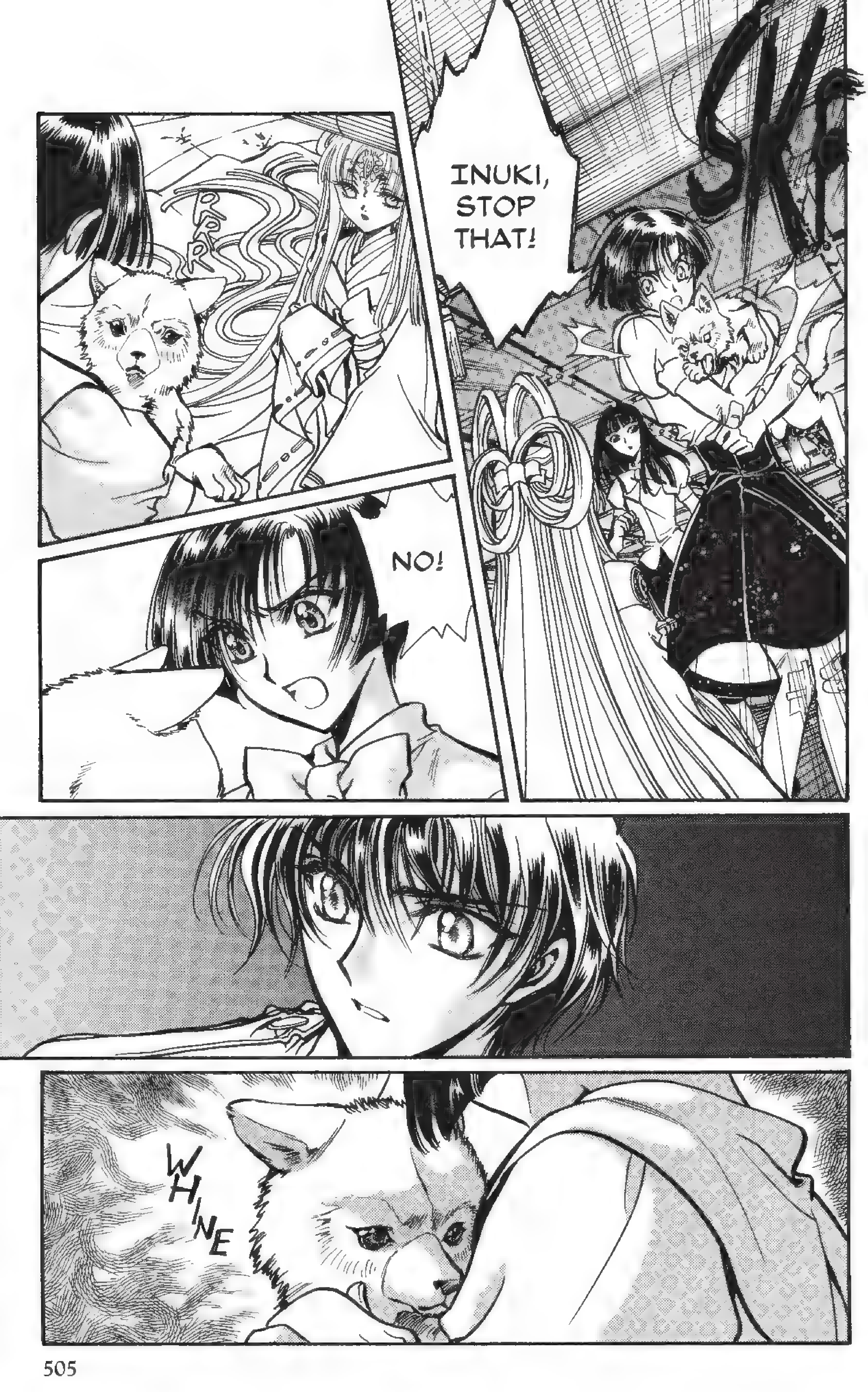

SHHAK
I am sorry to have kept you waiting.

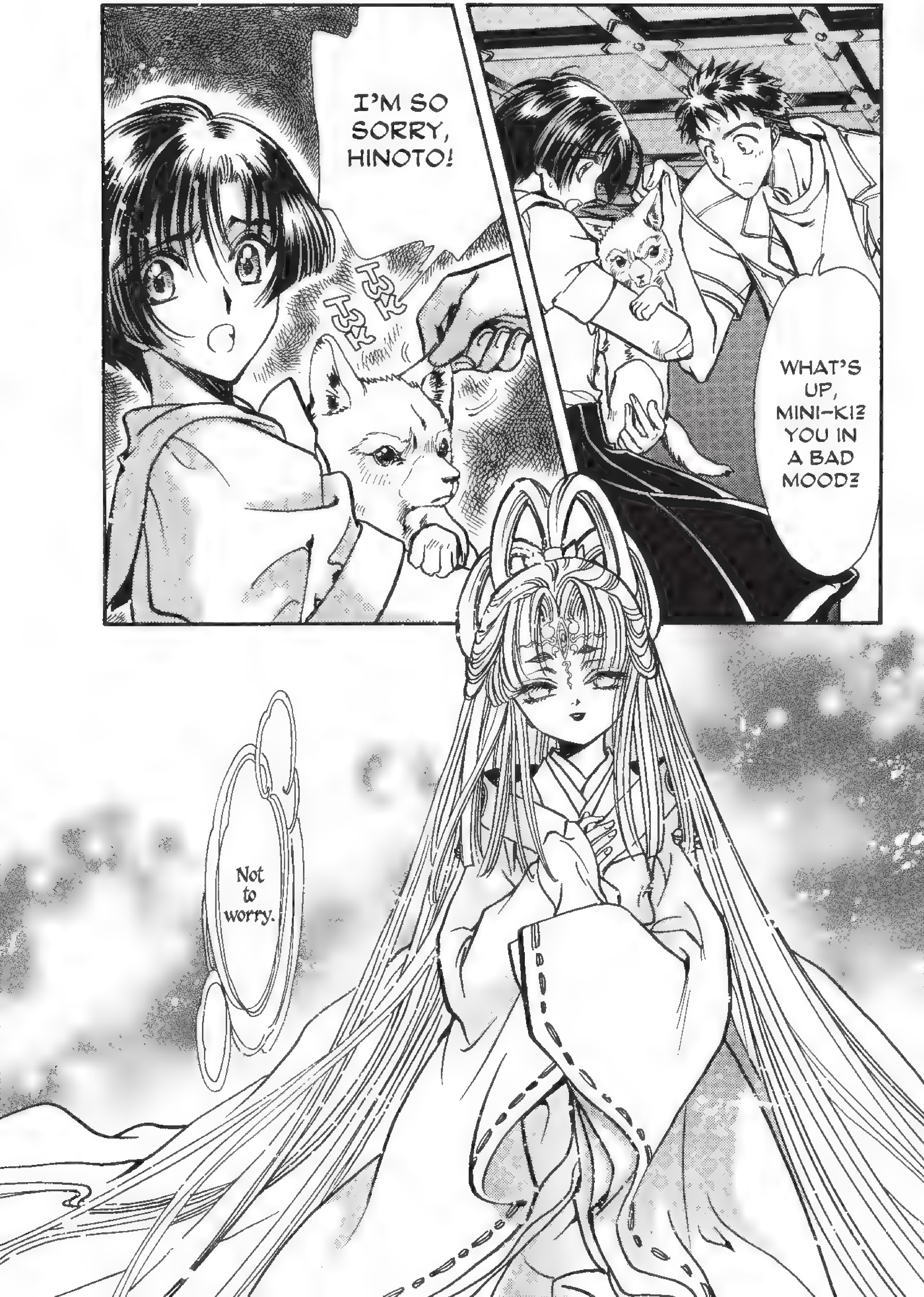

SWK
SSF

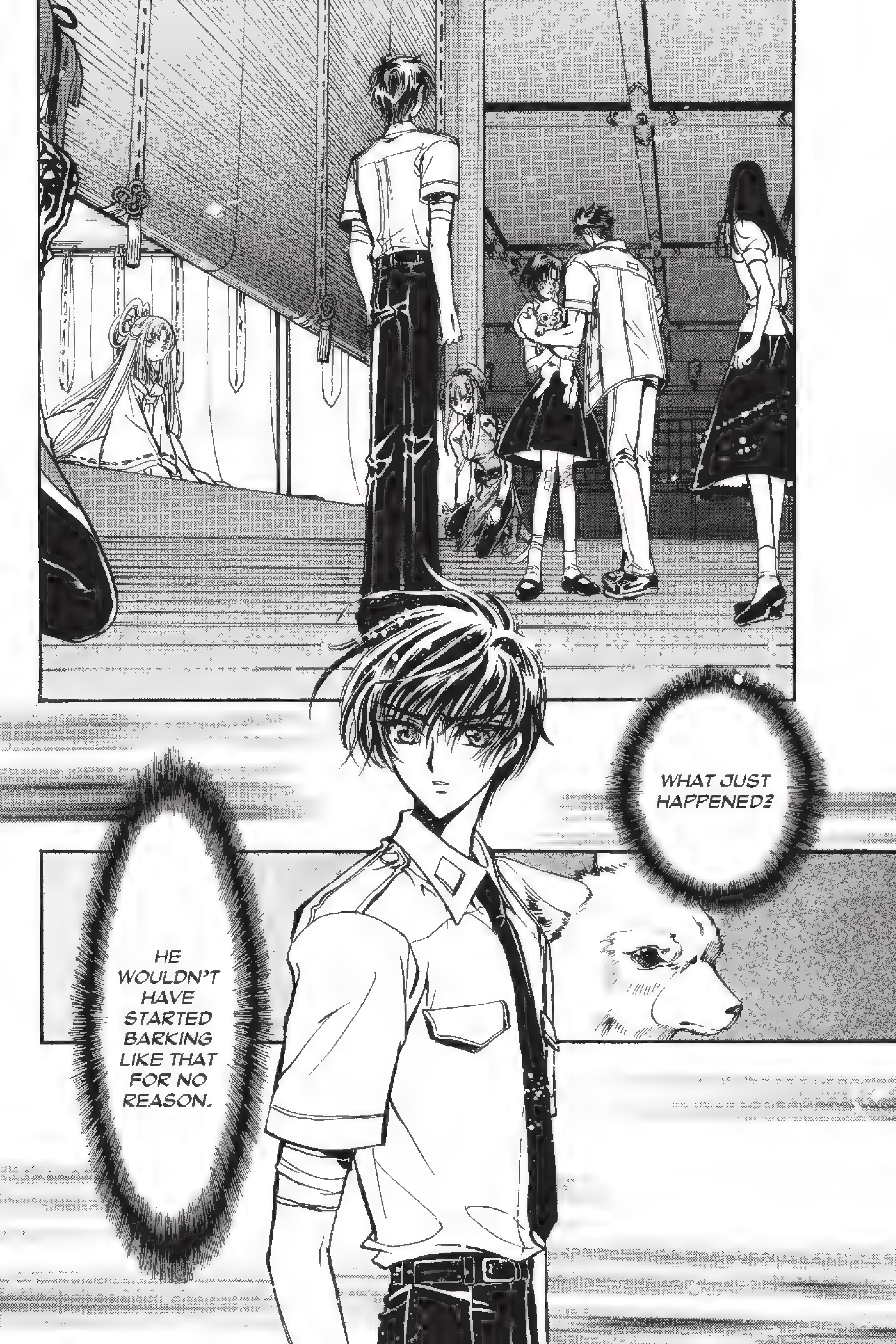

YOU'RE REALLY ALL RIGHT NOW?
Yes.
And you? How are your injuries?
My apologies for worrying you.
I'M ALL HEALED UP! GOOD AS NEW AND READY TO GO!
And this puppy ...?

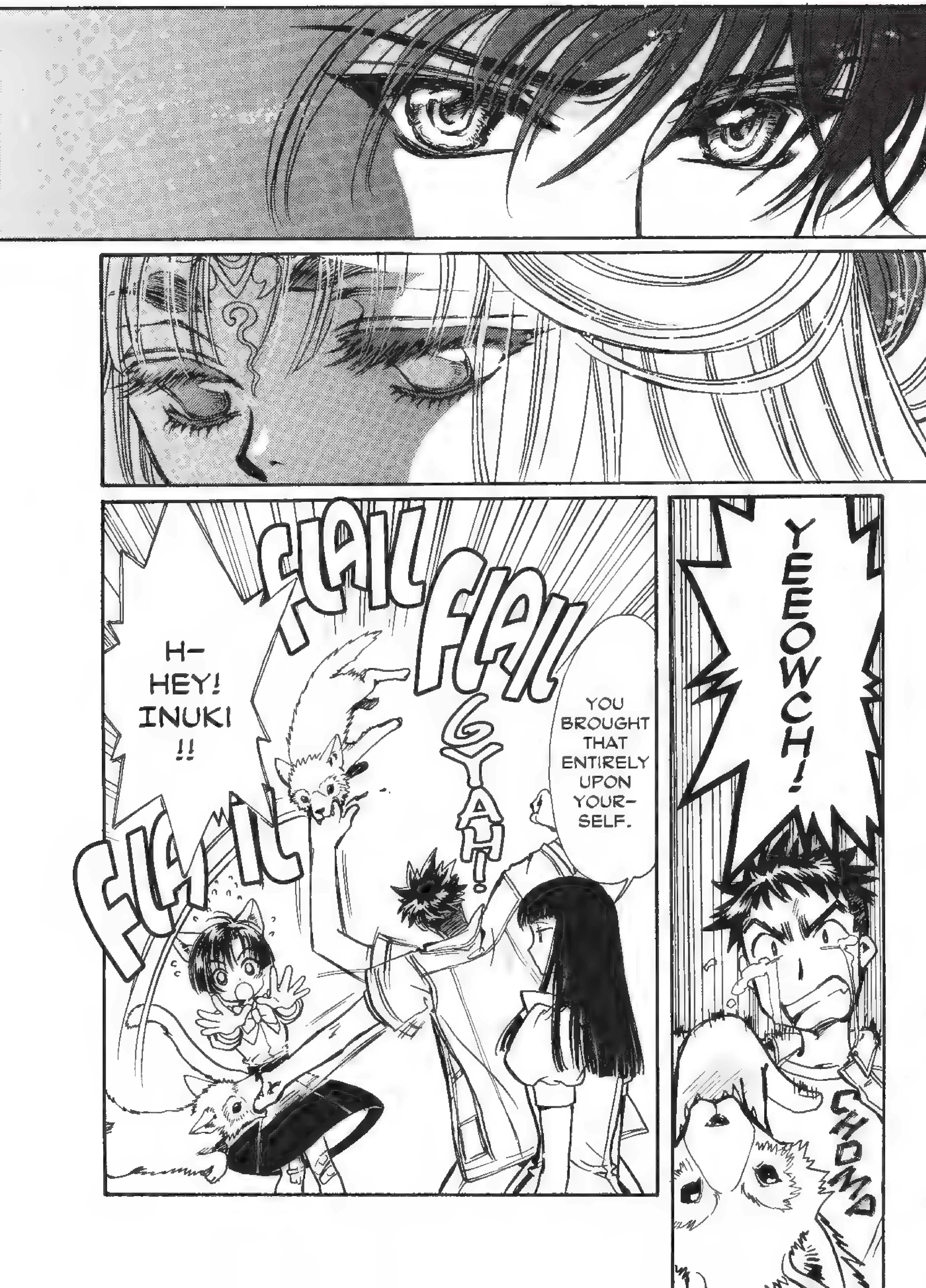

TA-DA!
IT'S INUKI!

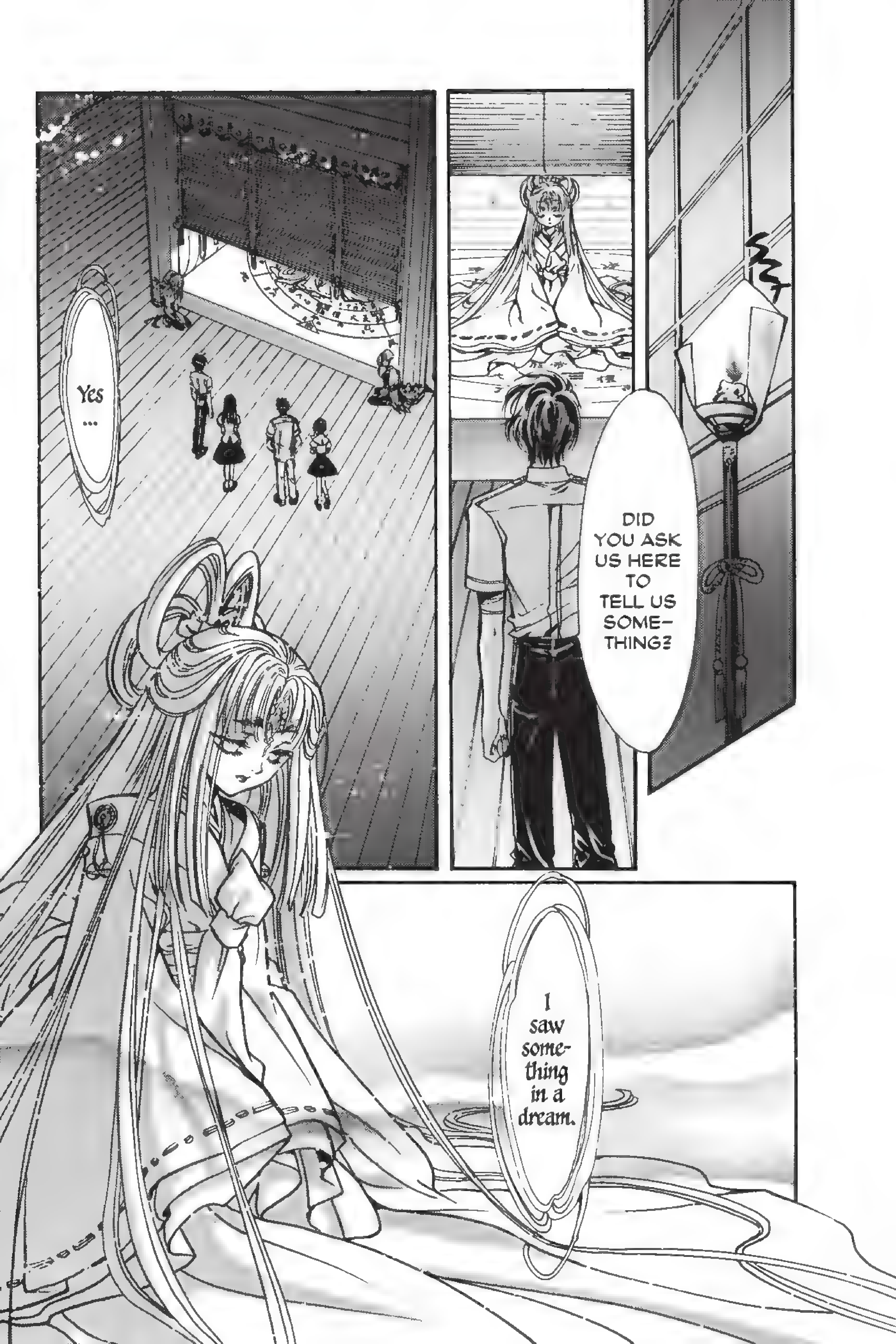

GRRR
RUFF
SNARRLL
RUFF
RUFF

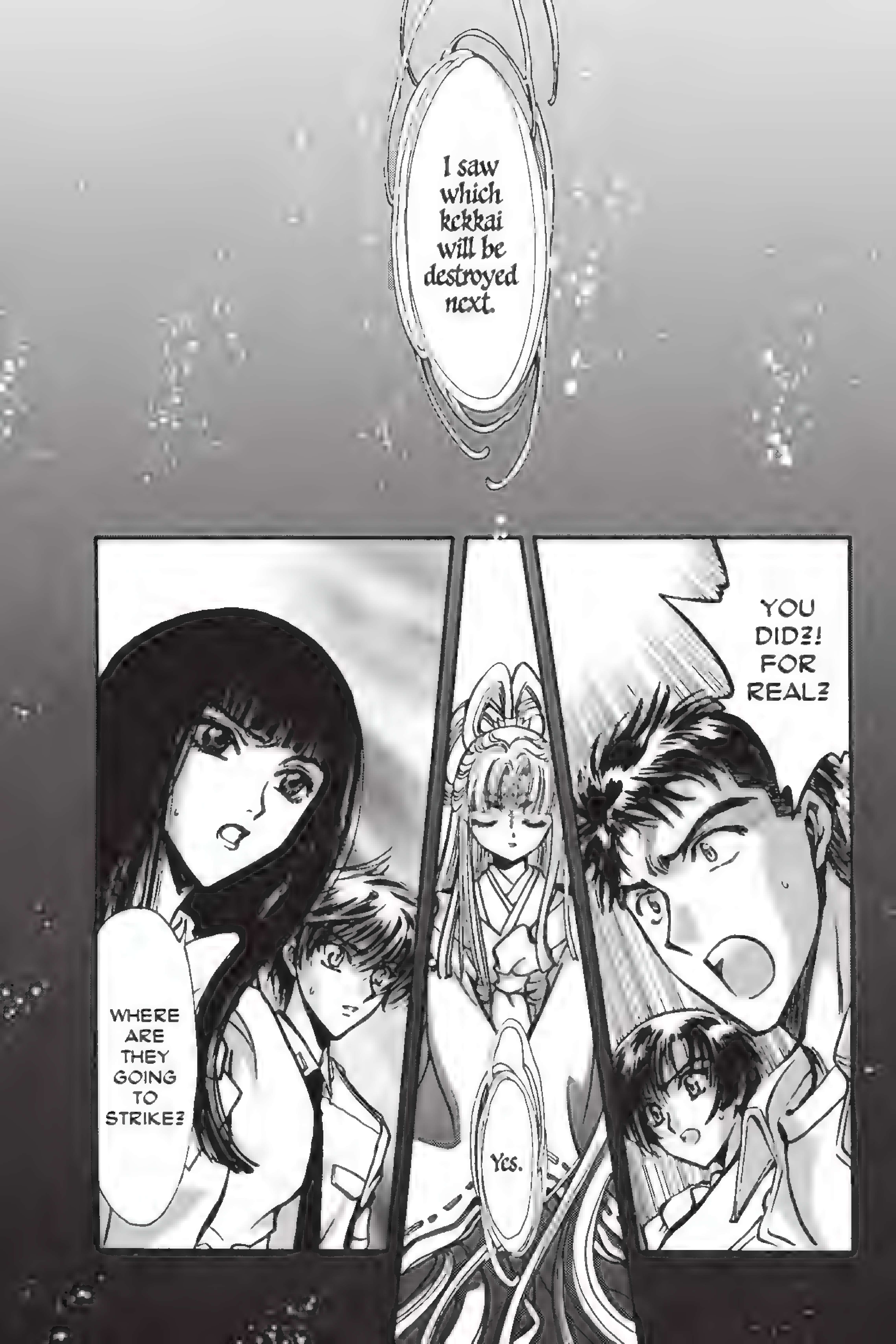

SKF
INUKI, STOP THAT!
RRR
NO!
WHINE

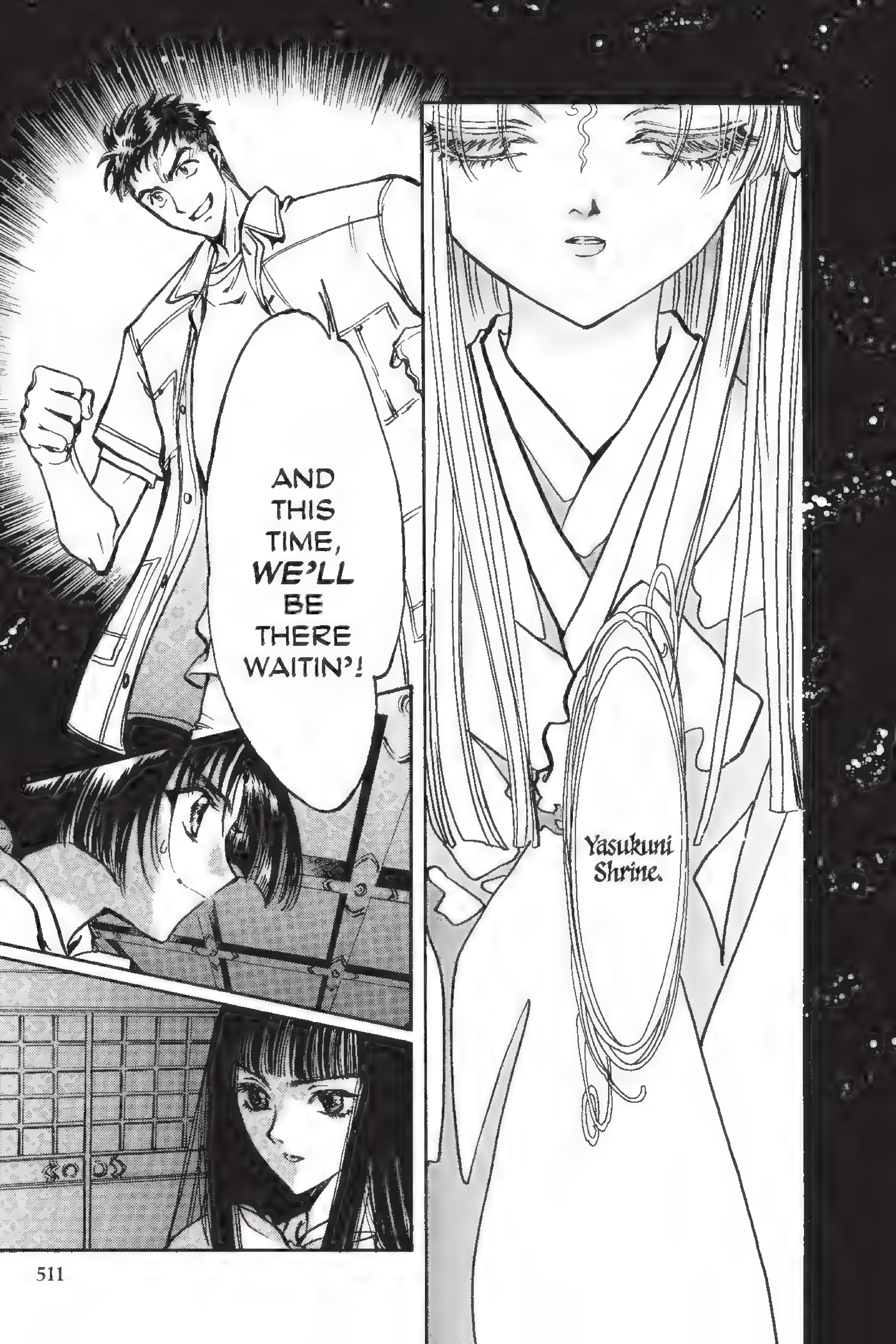

WHAT'S UP, MINI-KI? YOU IN A BAD MOOD?
I'M SO SORRY, HINOTO!
フンッ
フンッ
Not to worry.

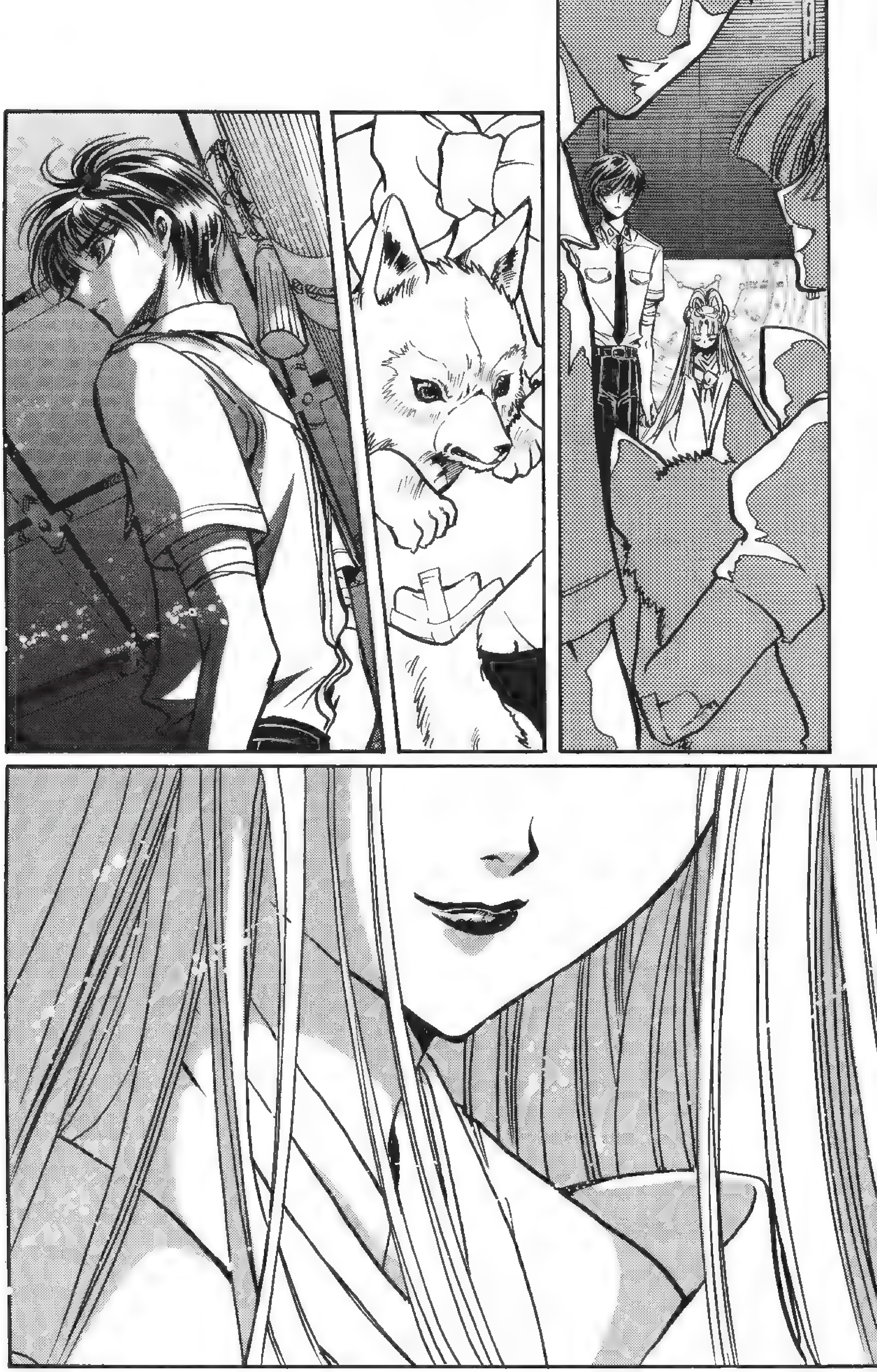

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
HE WOULDN'T HAVE STARTED BARKING LIKE THAT FOR NO REASON.

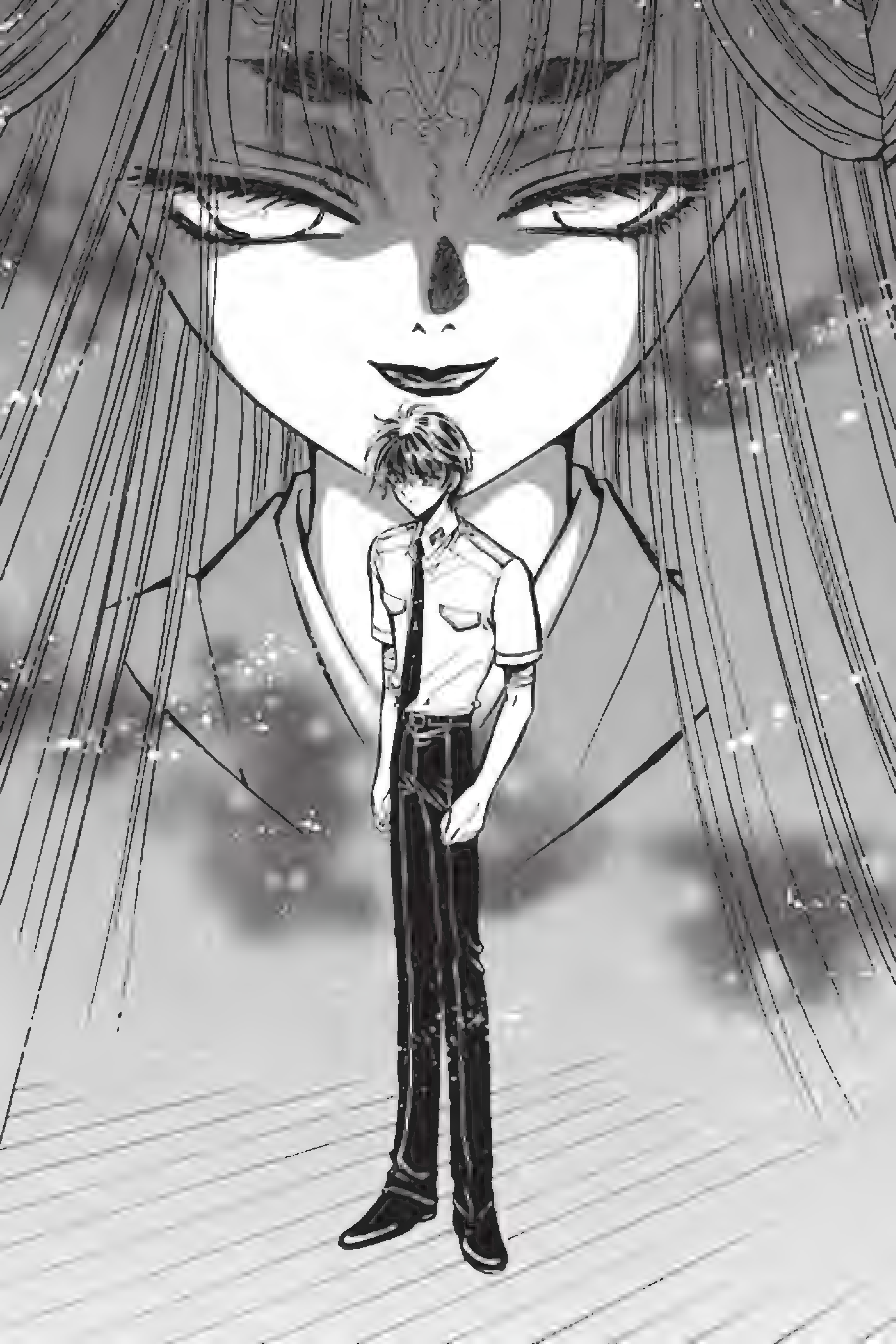

YEEOWCH!
CHOMP
YOU BROUGHT THAT ENTIRELY UPON YOURSELF.
GYAAH!
FLAIL FLAIL
H-HEY! INUKI!!
FLAIL

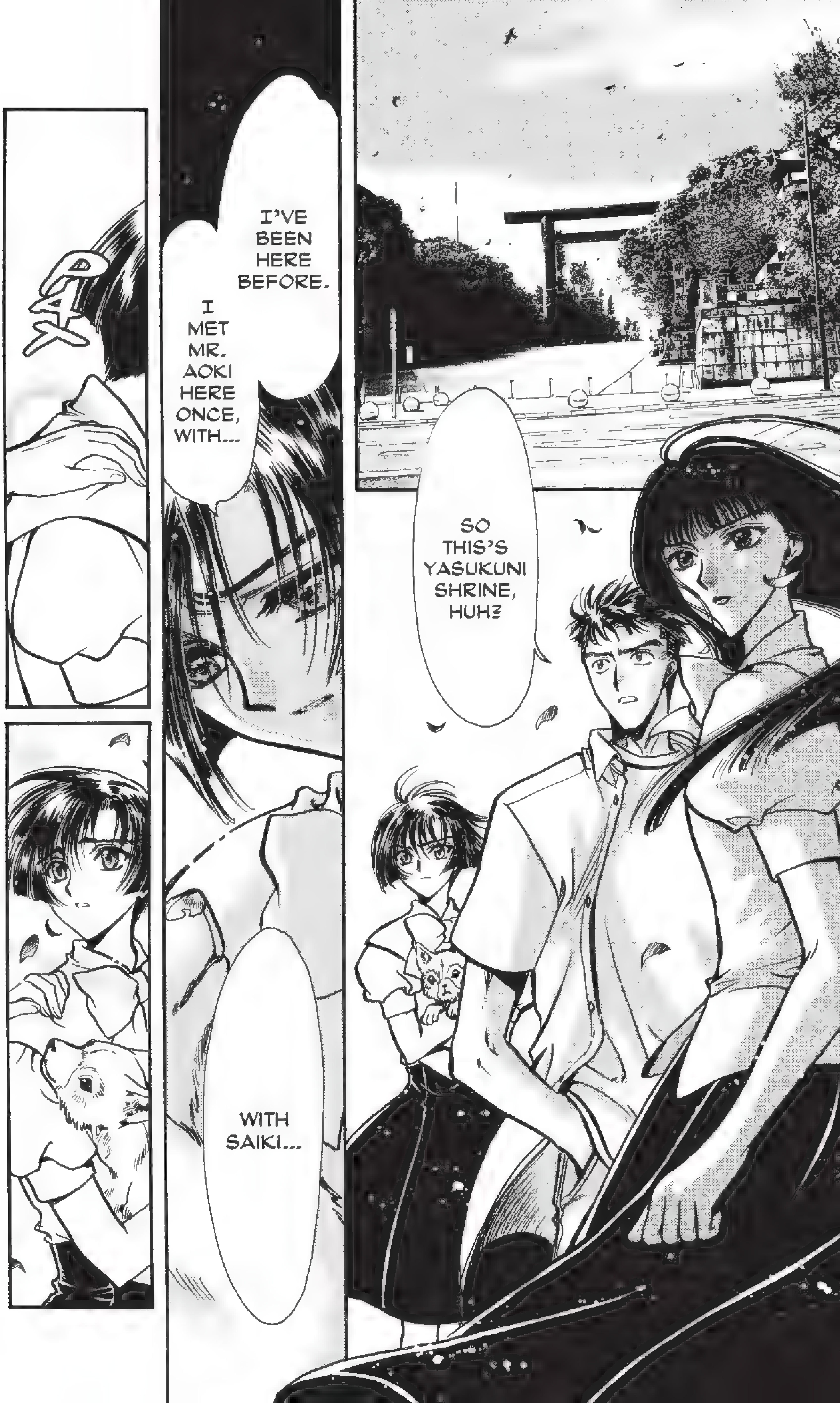

DID YOU ASK US HERE TO TELL US SOMETHING?
Yes ...
I saw something in a dream.

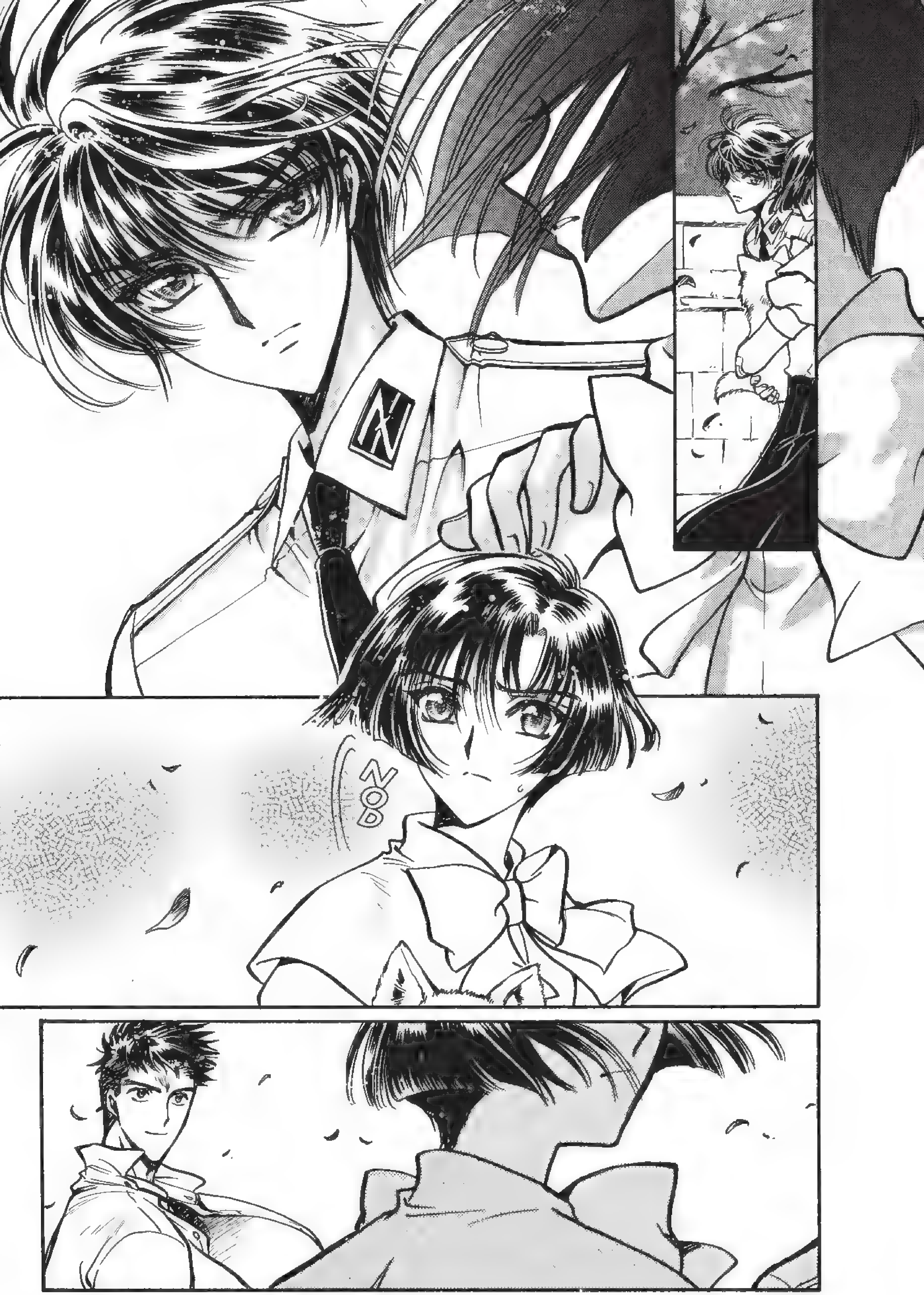

I saw which kekkai will be destroyed next.
YOU DID?! FOR REAL?
Yes.
WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO STRIKE?

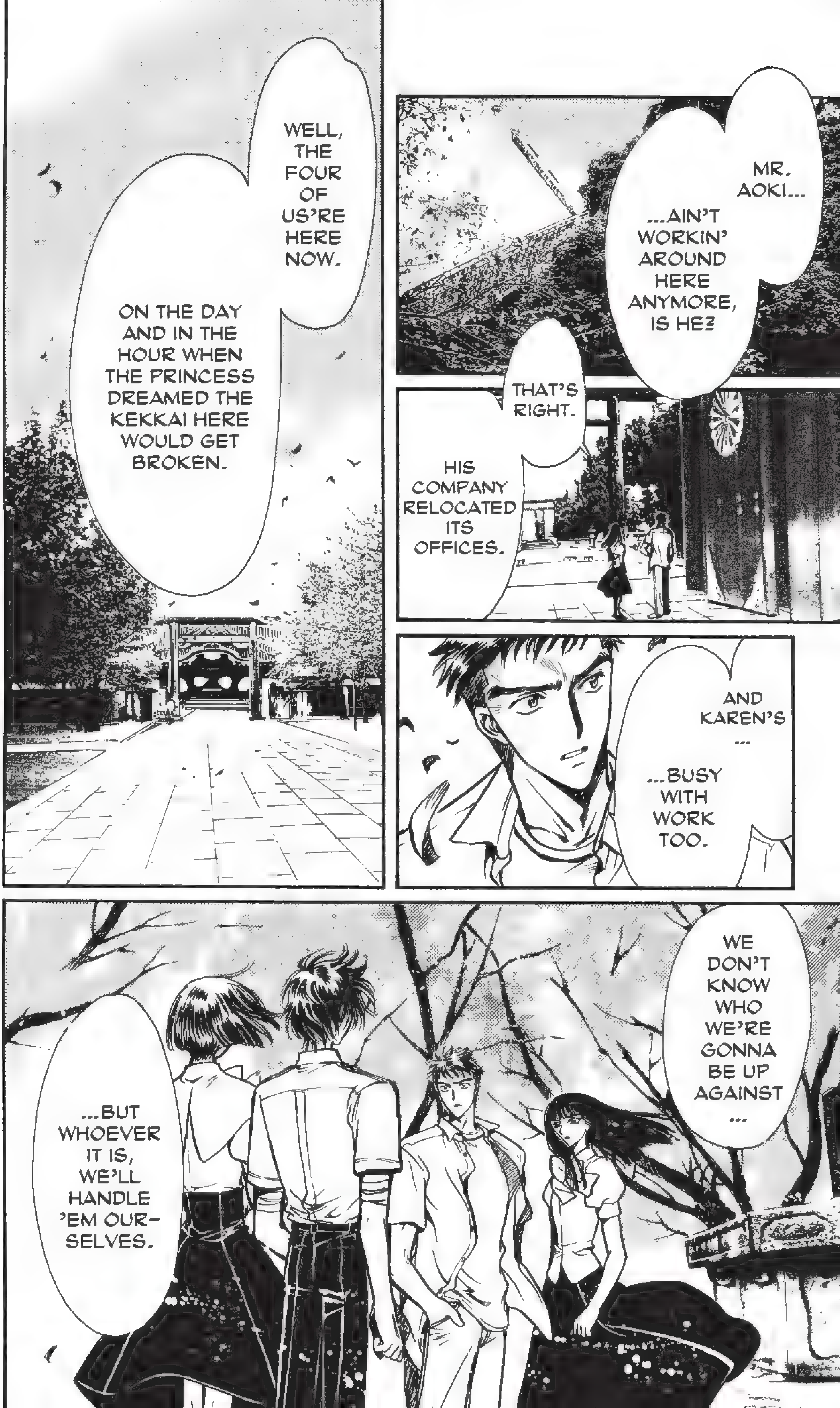

Yasukuni Shrine.
AND THIS TIME, *WE'LL* BE THERE WAITIN'!

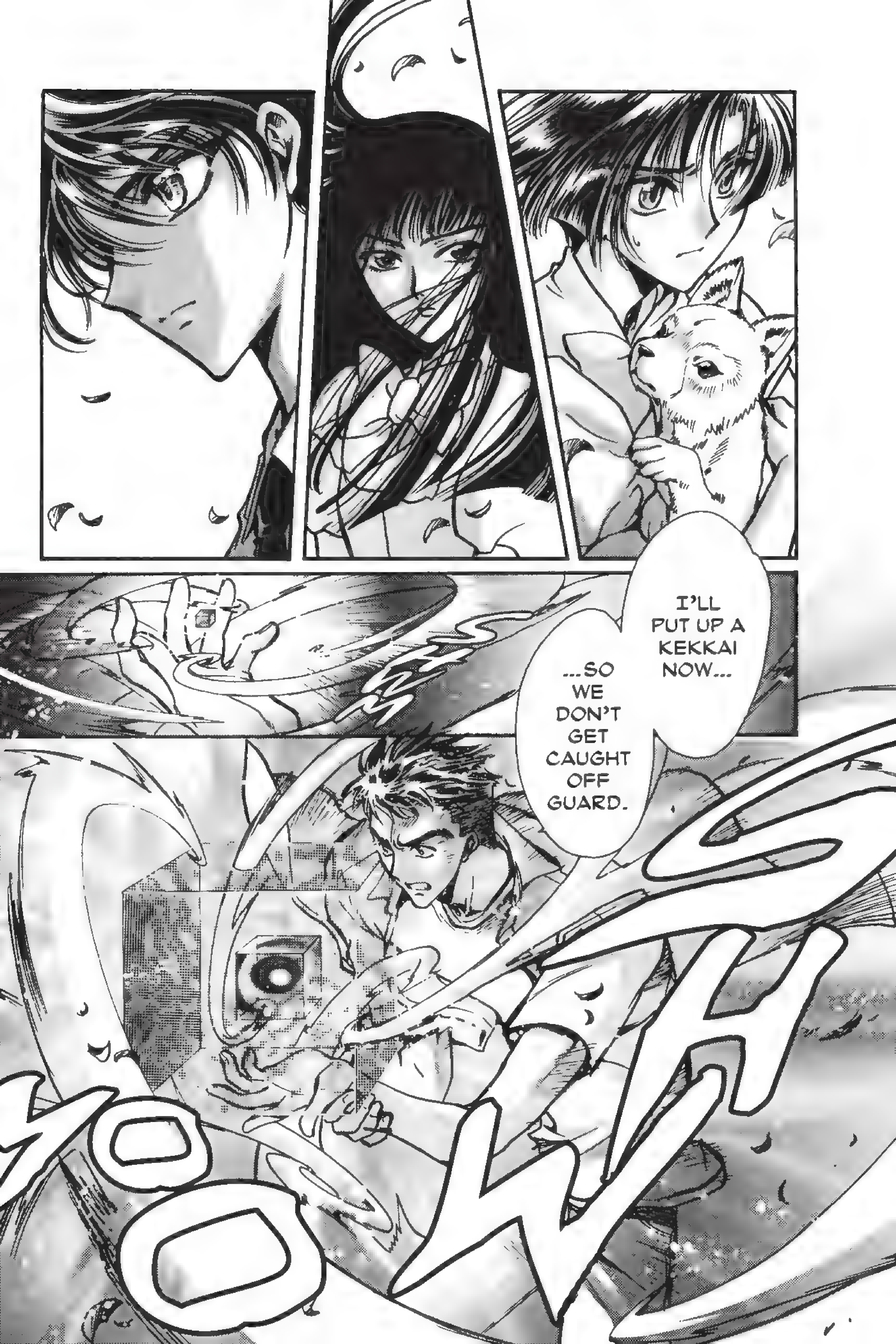


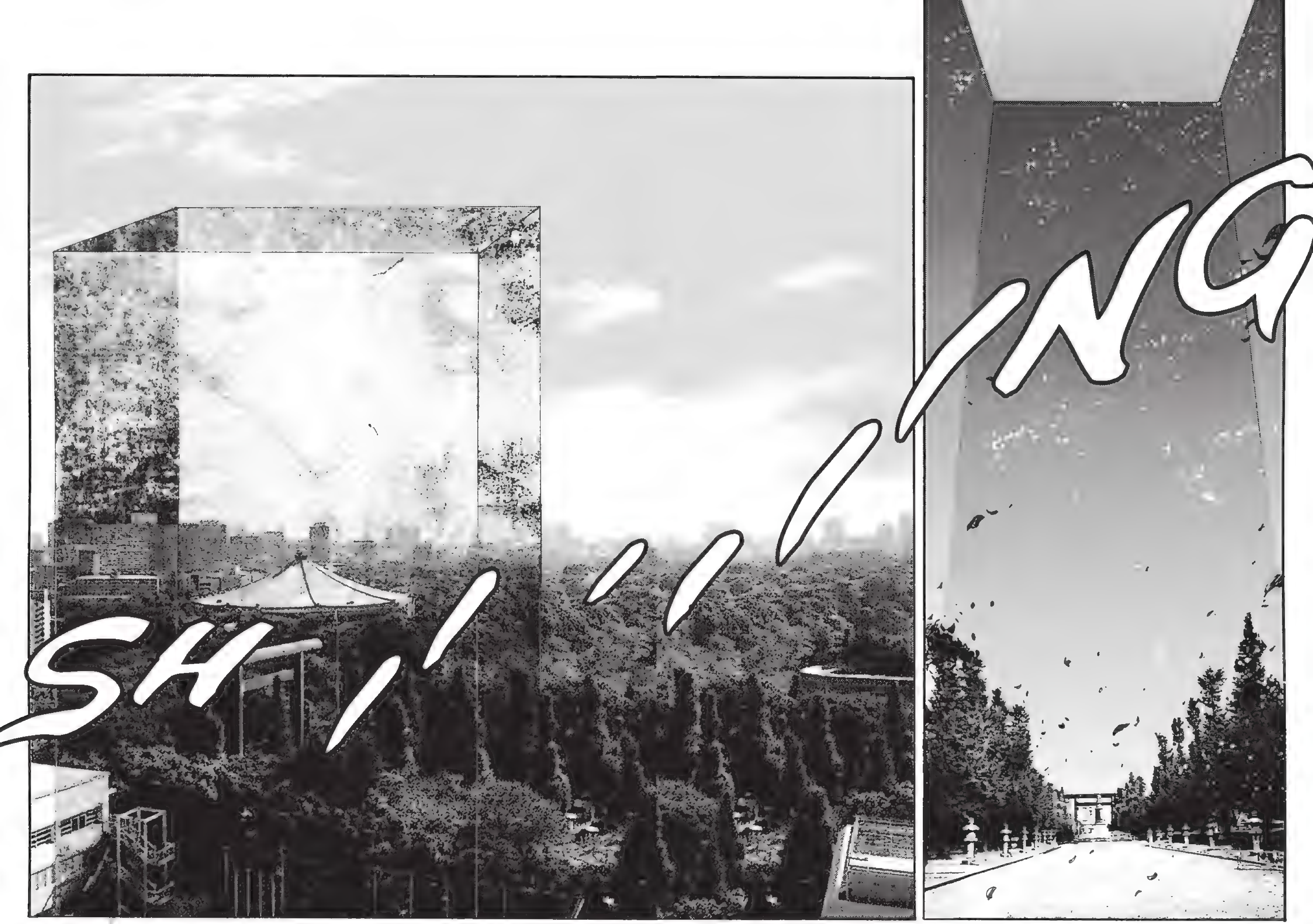


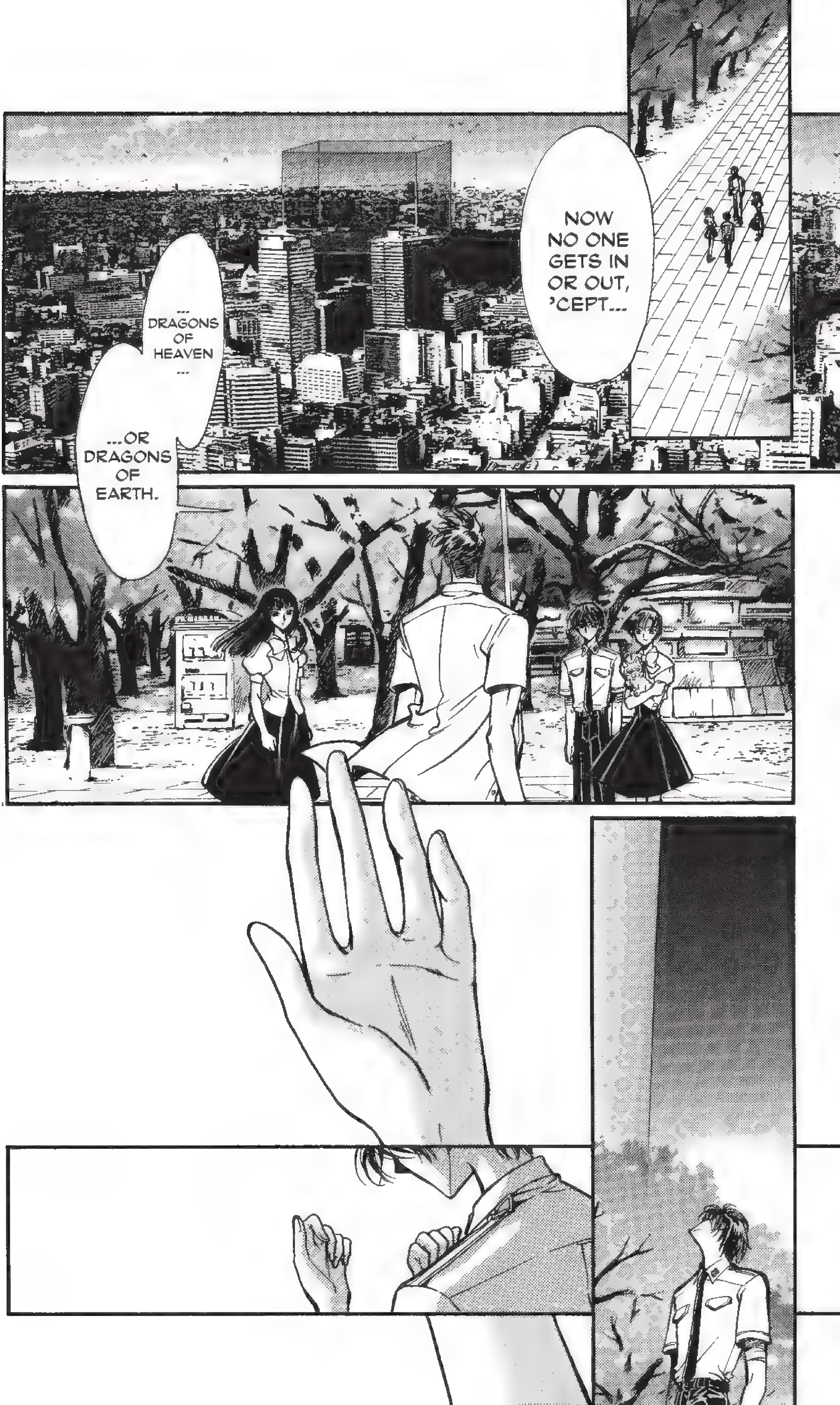

SO THIS'S YASUKUNI SHRINE, HUH?
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
I MET MR. AOKI HERE ONCE, WITH...
WITH SAIKI...
PAT

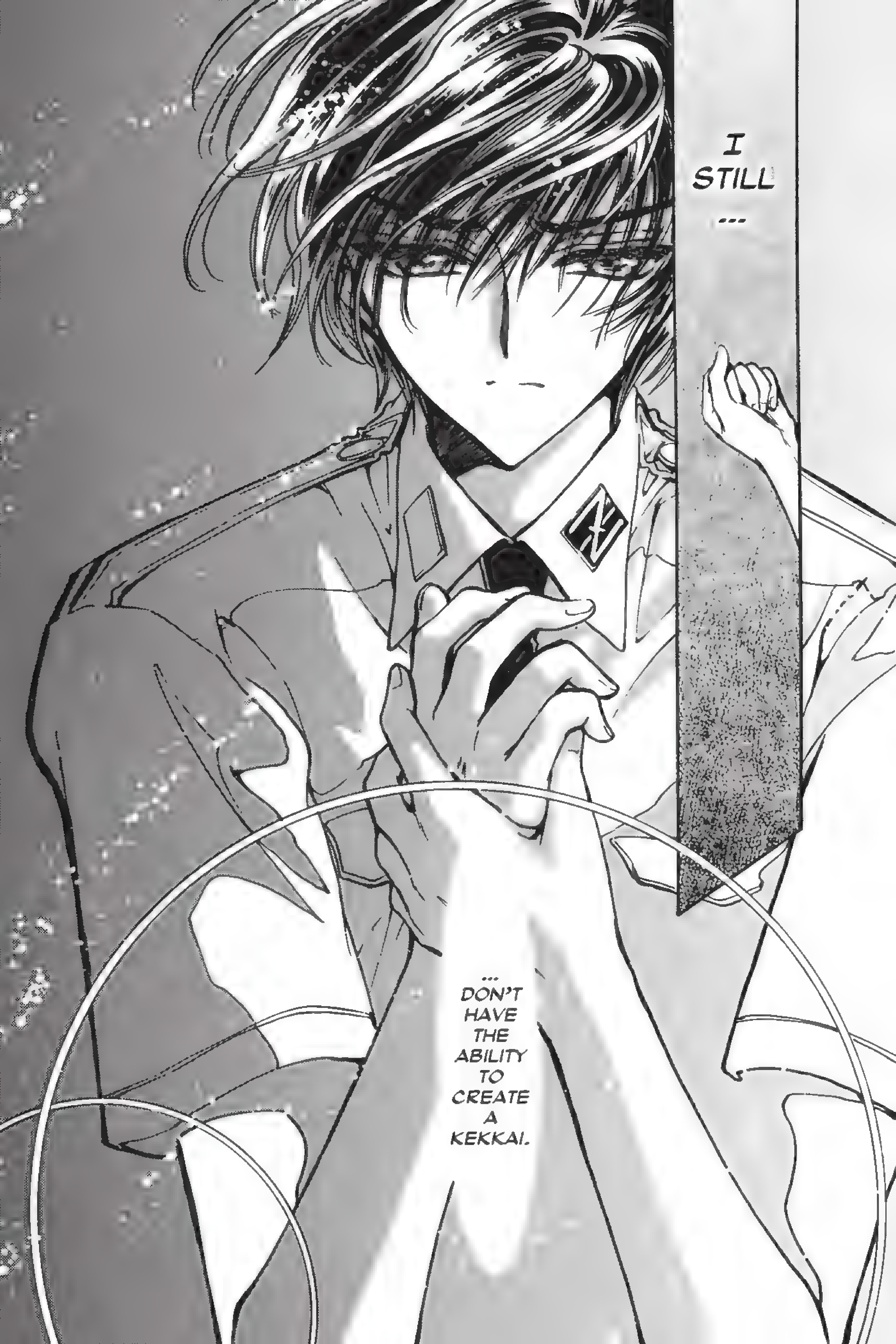

NOD

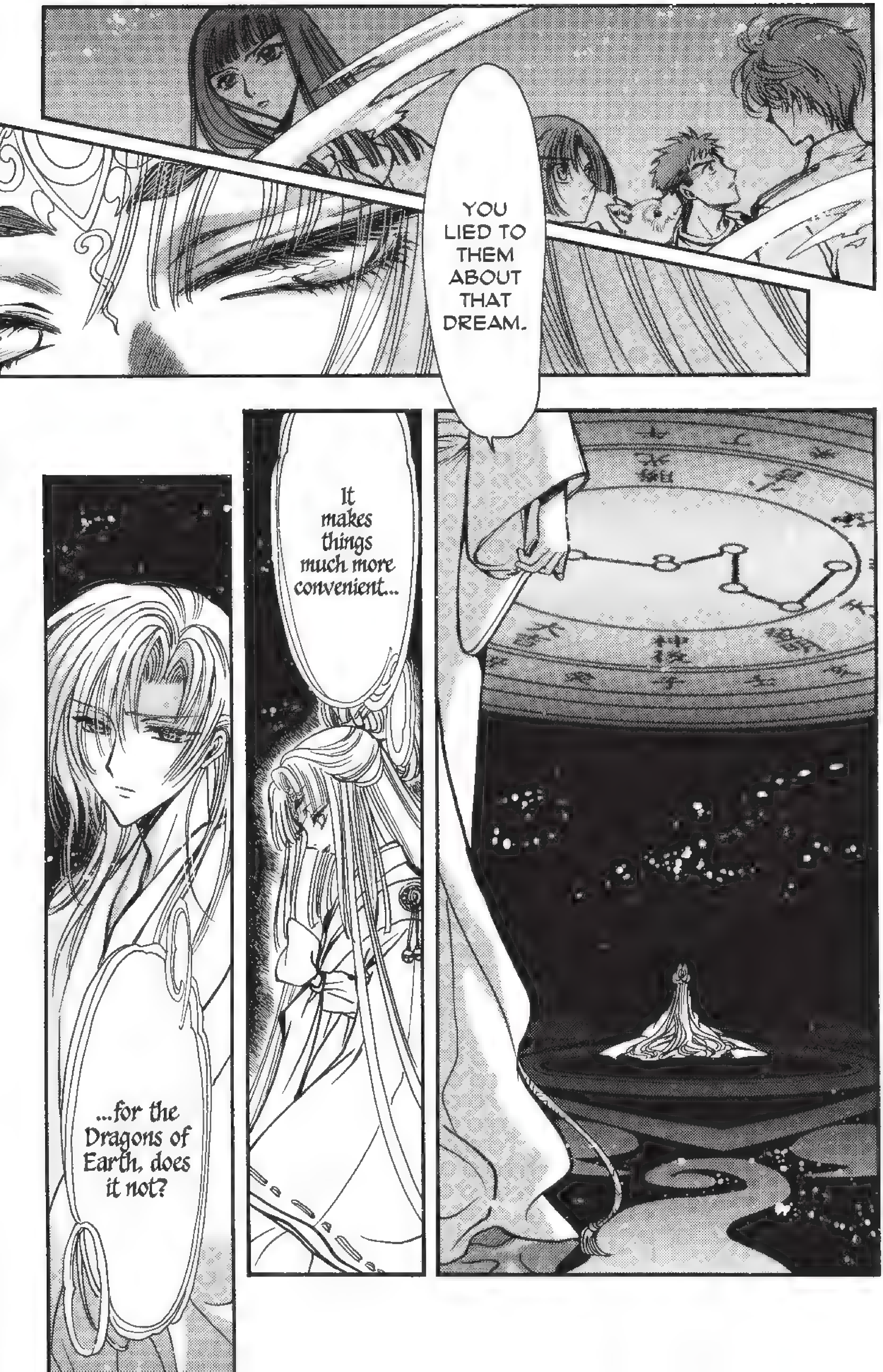

MR. AOKI...
...AIN'T WORKIN' AROUND HERE ANYMORE, IS HE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HIS COMPANY RELOCATED ITS OFFICES.
AND KAREN'S...
...BUSY WITH WORK TOO.
WELL, THE FOUR OF US'RE HERE NOW.
ON THE DAY AND IN THE HOUR WHEN THE PRINCESS DREAMED THE KEKKAI HERE WOULD GET BROKEN.
WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE'RE GONNA BE UP AGAINST...
...BUT WHOEVER IT IS, WE'LL HANDLE 'EM OURSELVES.

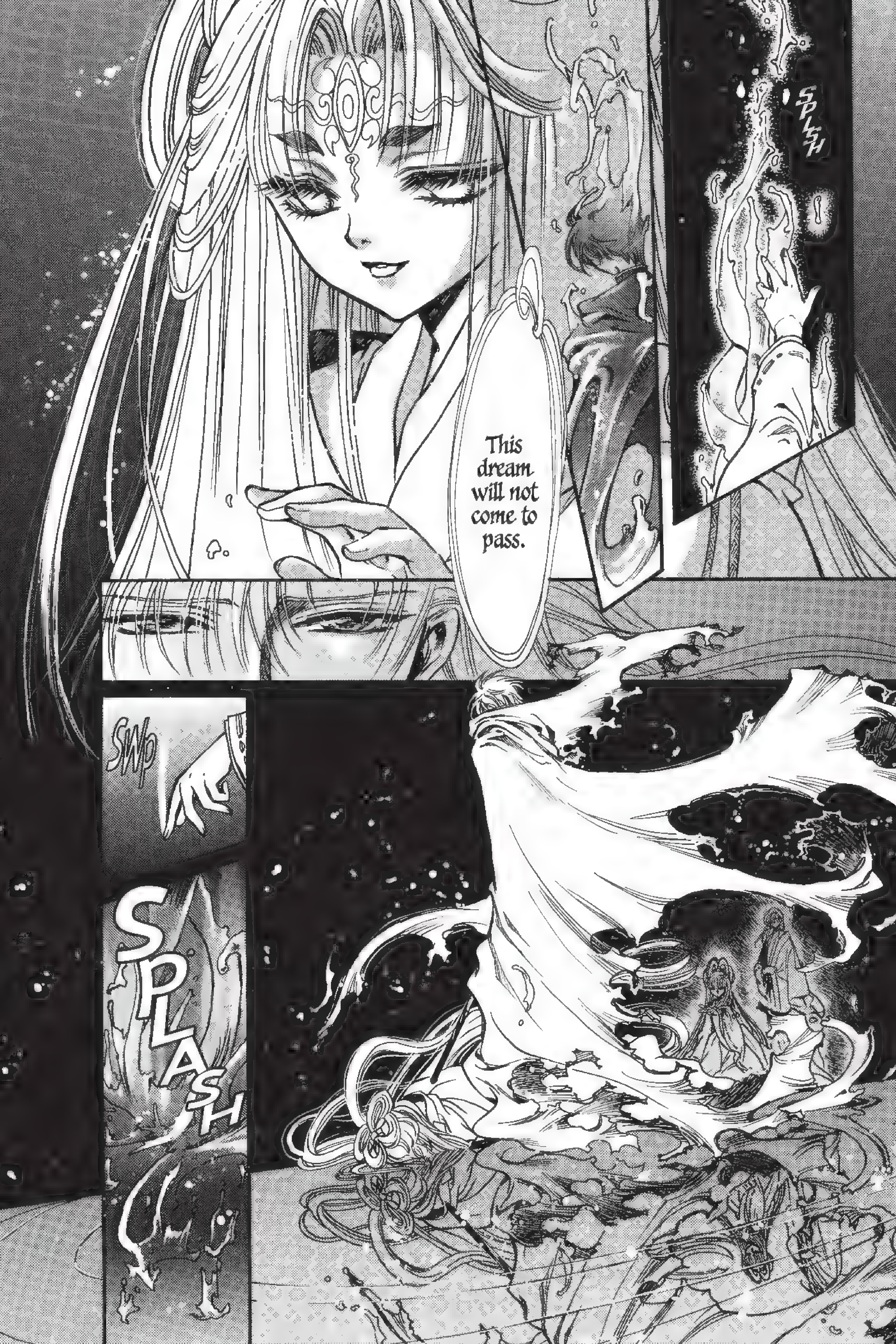

I'LL PUT UP A KEKKAI NOW...
...SO WE DON'T GET CAUGHT OFF GUARD.
SWOOSH

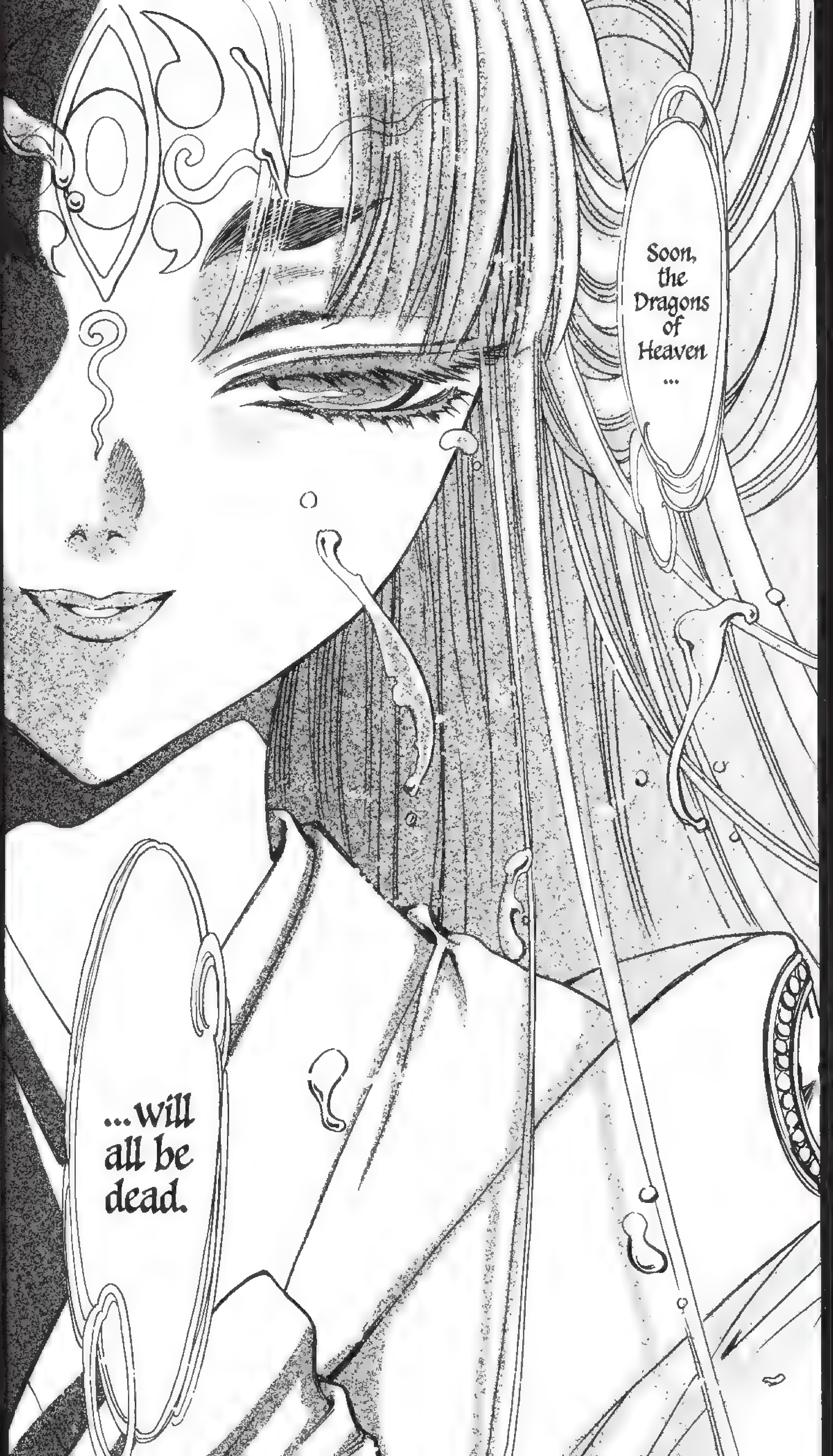

SHIIIIING

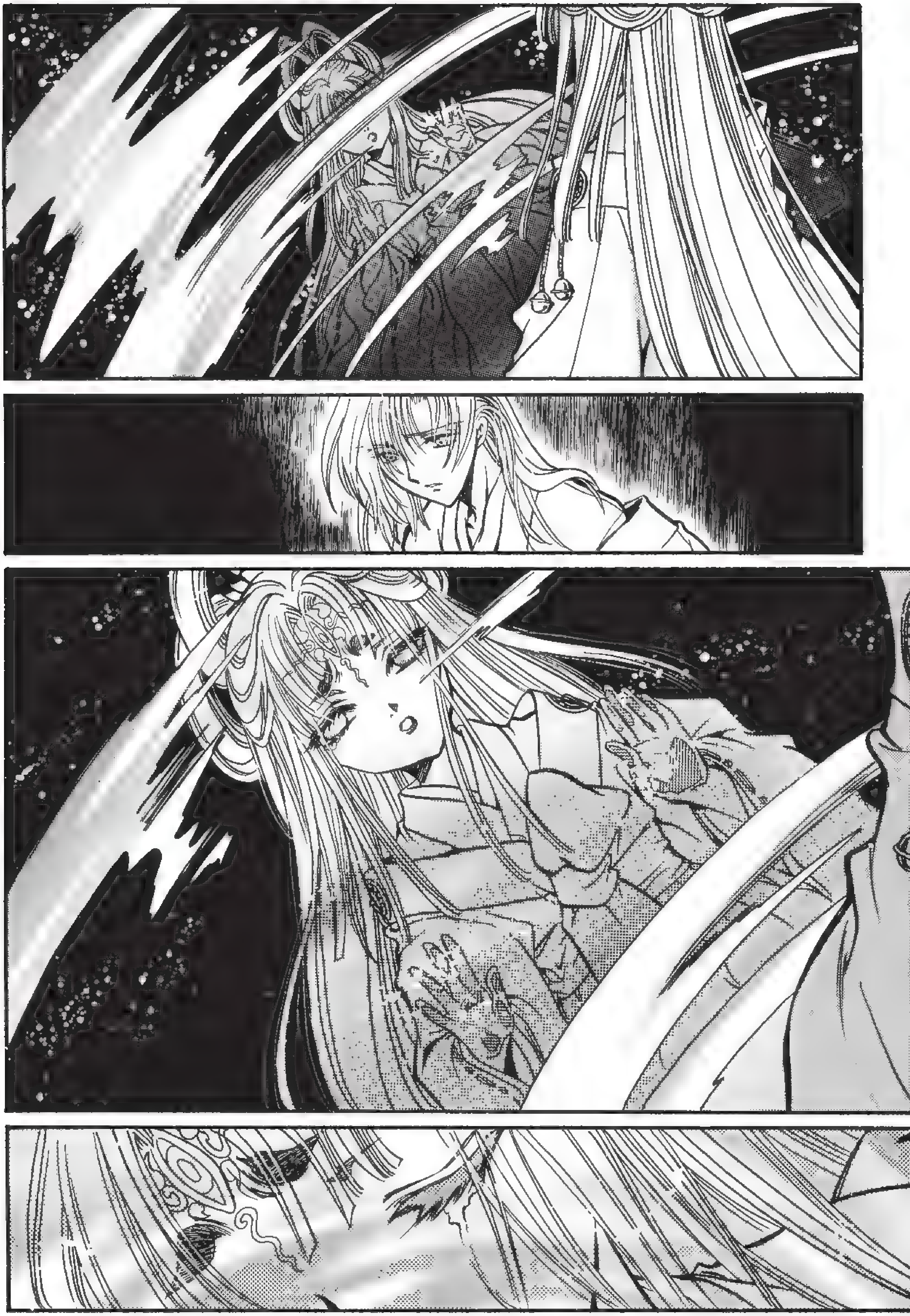

NOW NO ONE GETS IN OR OUT, 'CEPT...
...DRAGONS OF HEAVEN...
...OR DRAGONS OF EARTH.

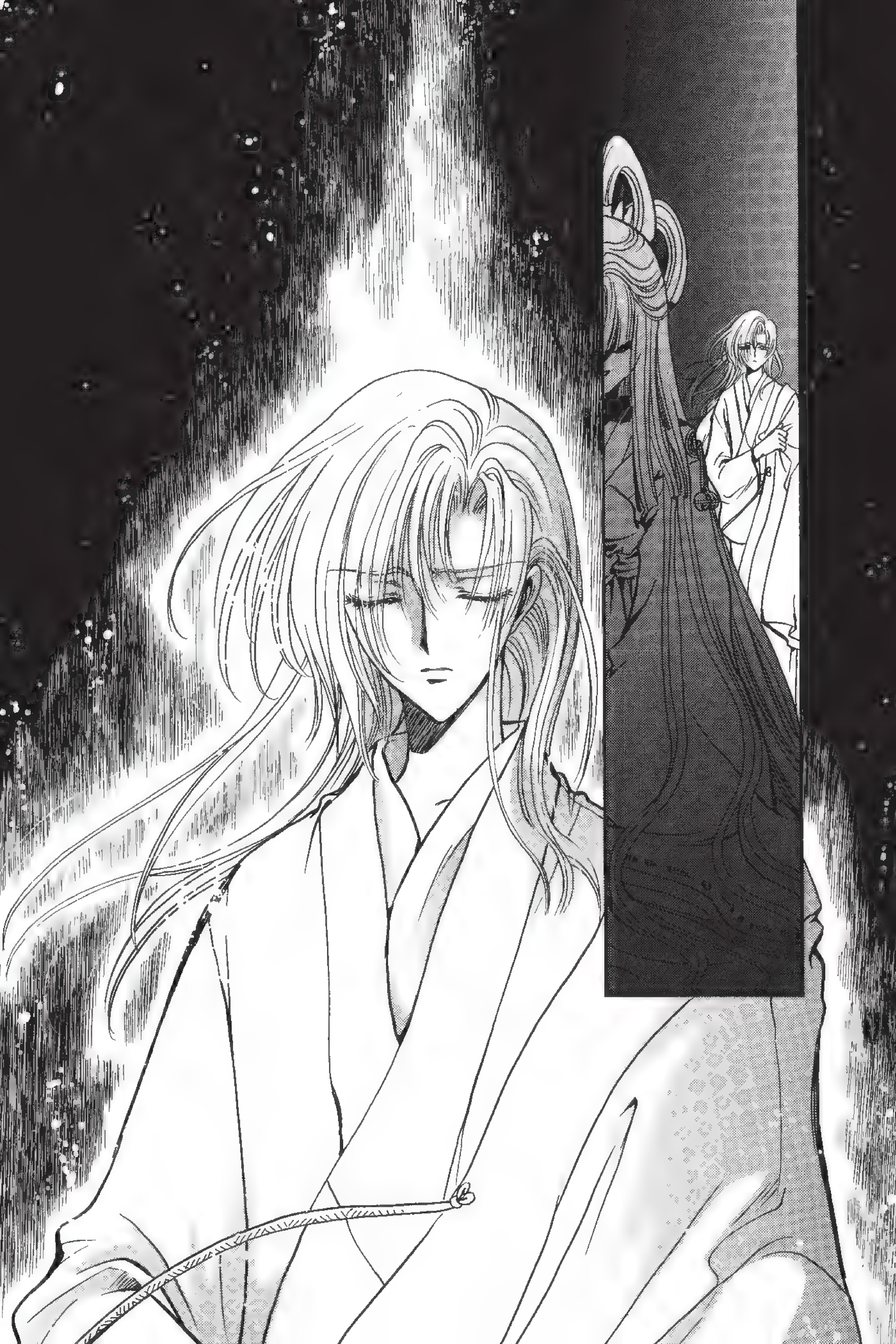

I STILL ...
... DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO CREATE A KEKKAI.

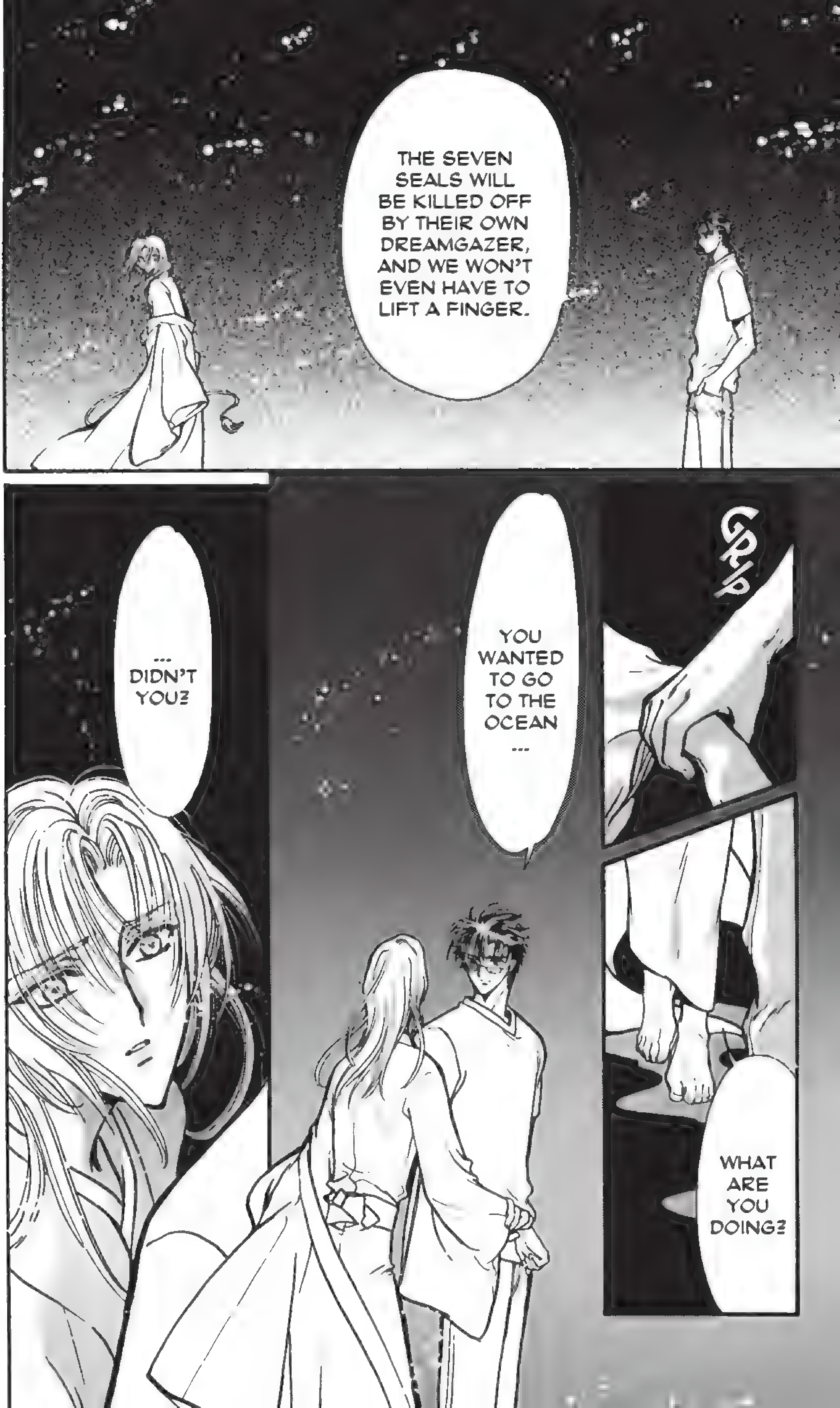

YOU LIED TO THEM ABOUT THAT DREAM.
It makes things much more convenient...
...for the Dragons of Earth, does it not?

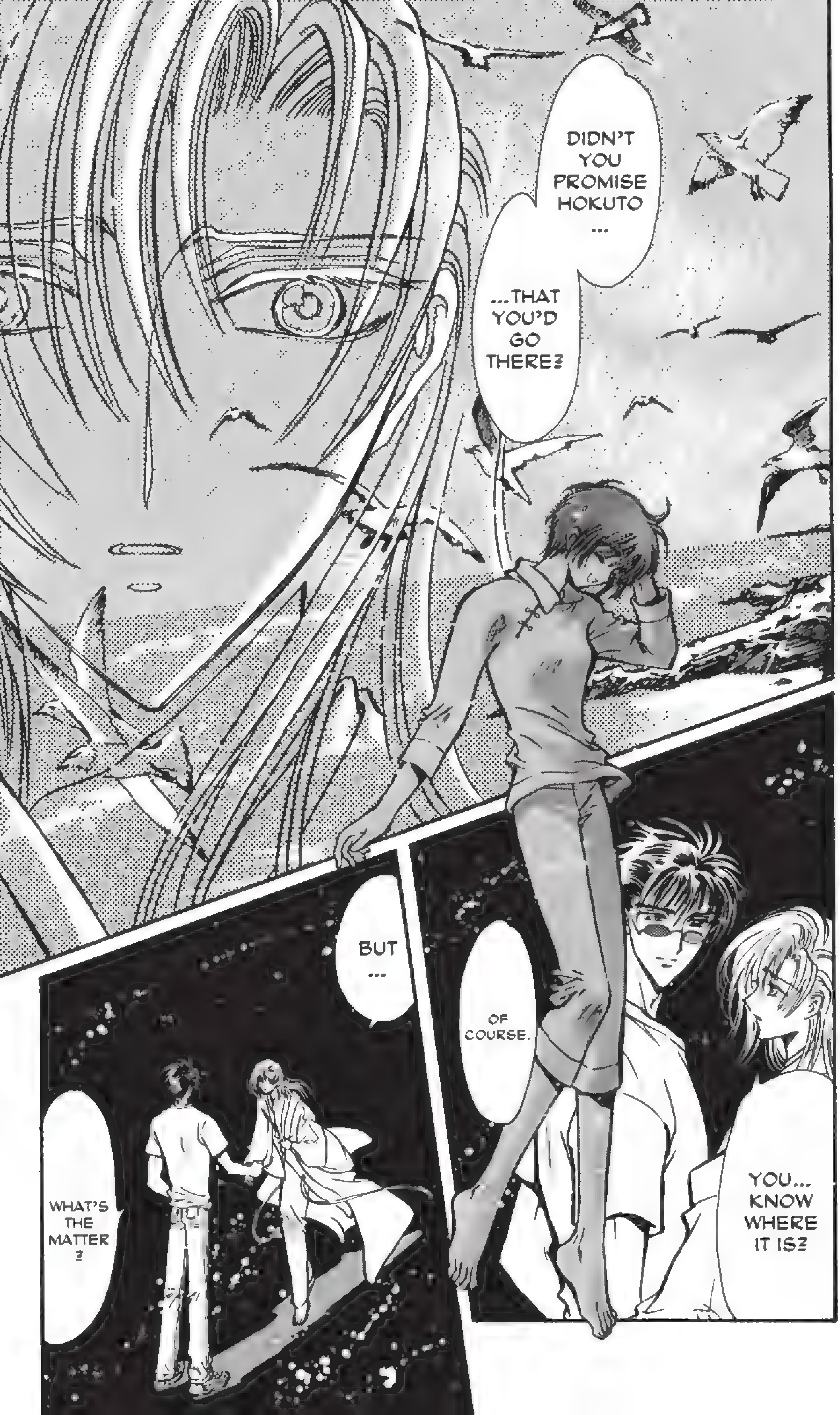

SPLSH
This dream will not come to pass.
SWP
SPLASH

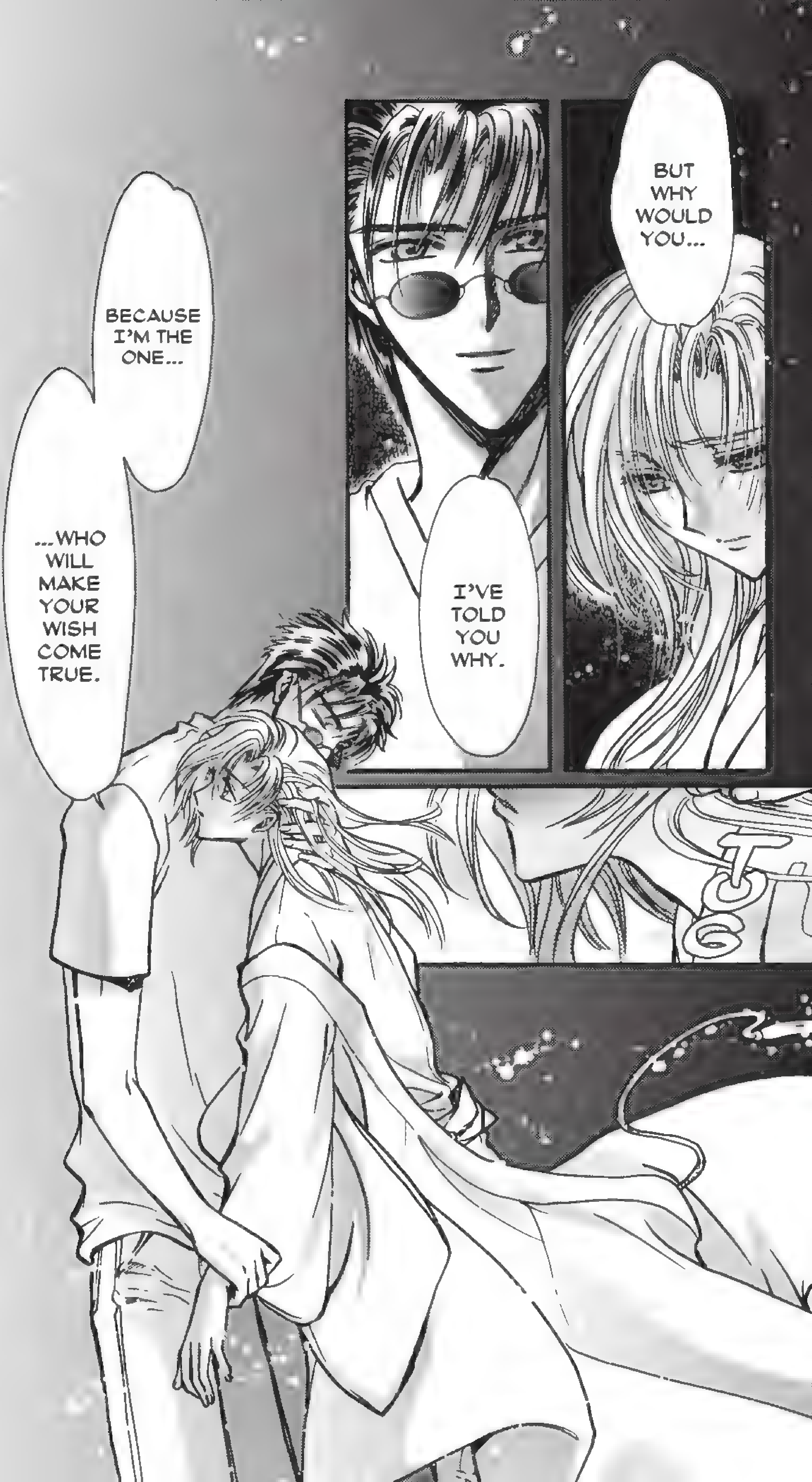

Soon, the Dragons of Heaven ...
...will all be dead.

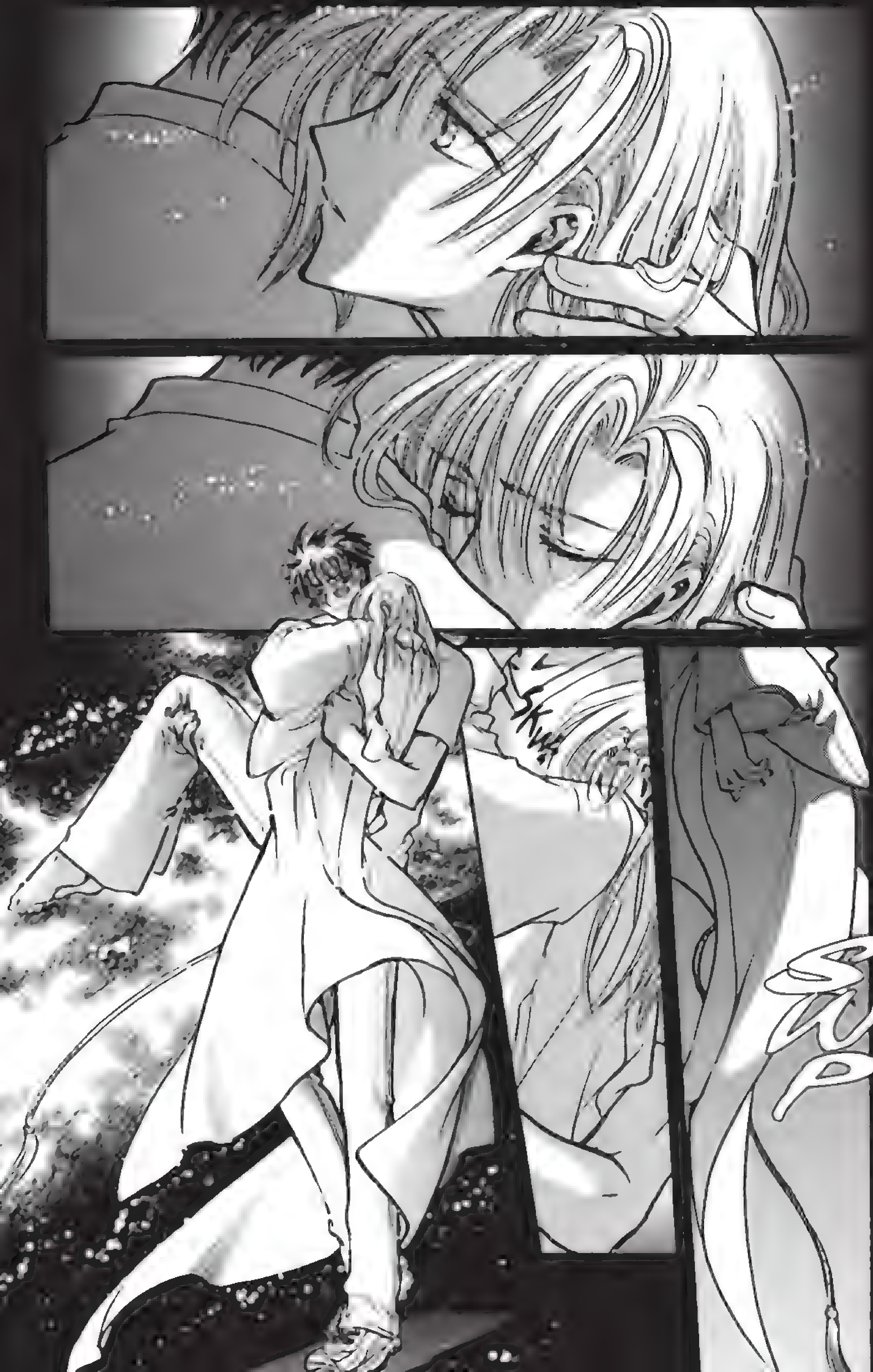


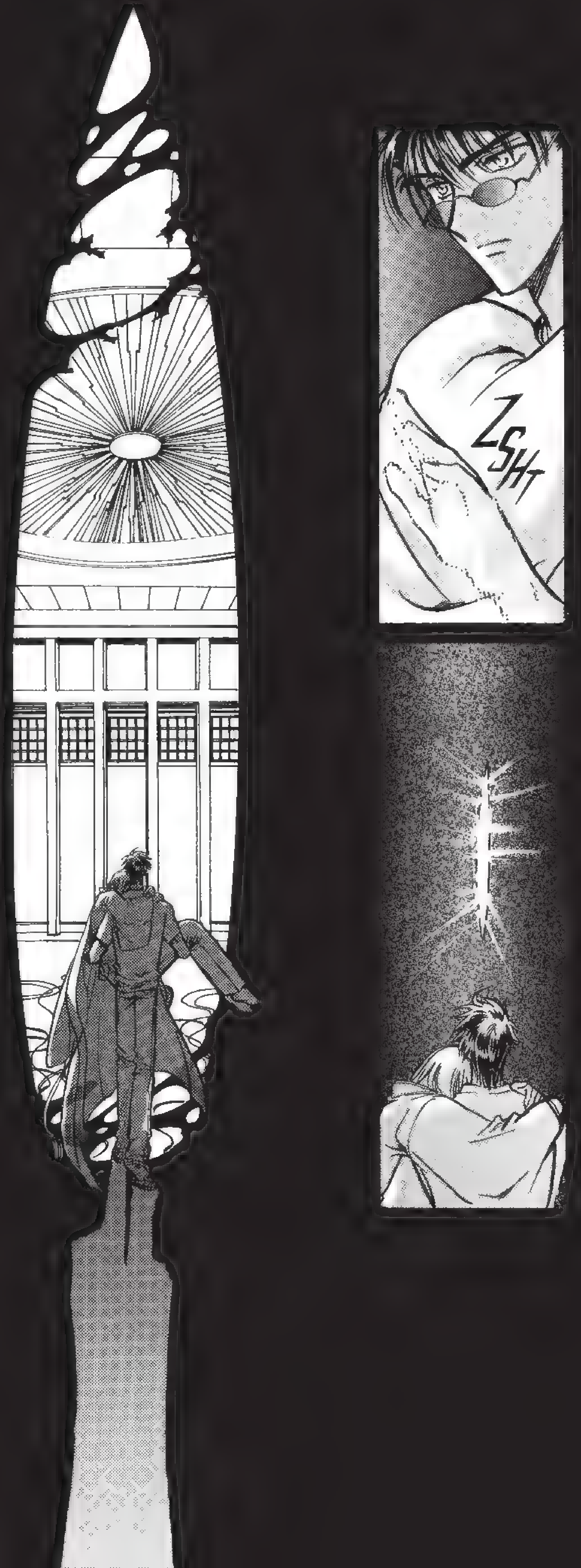


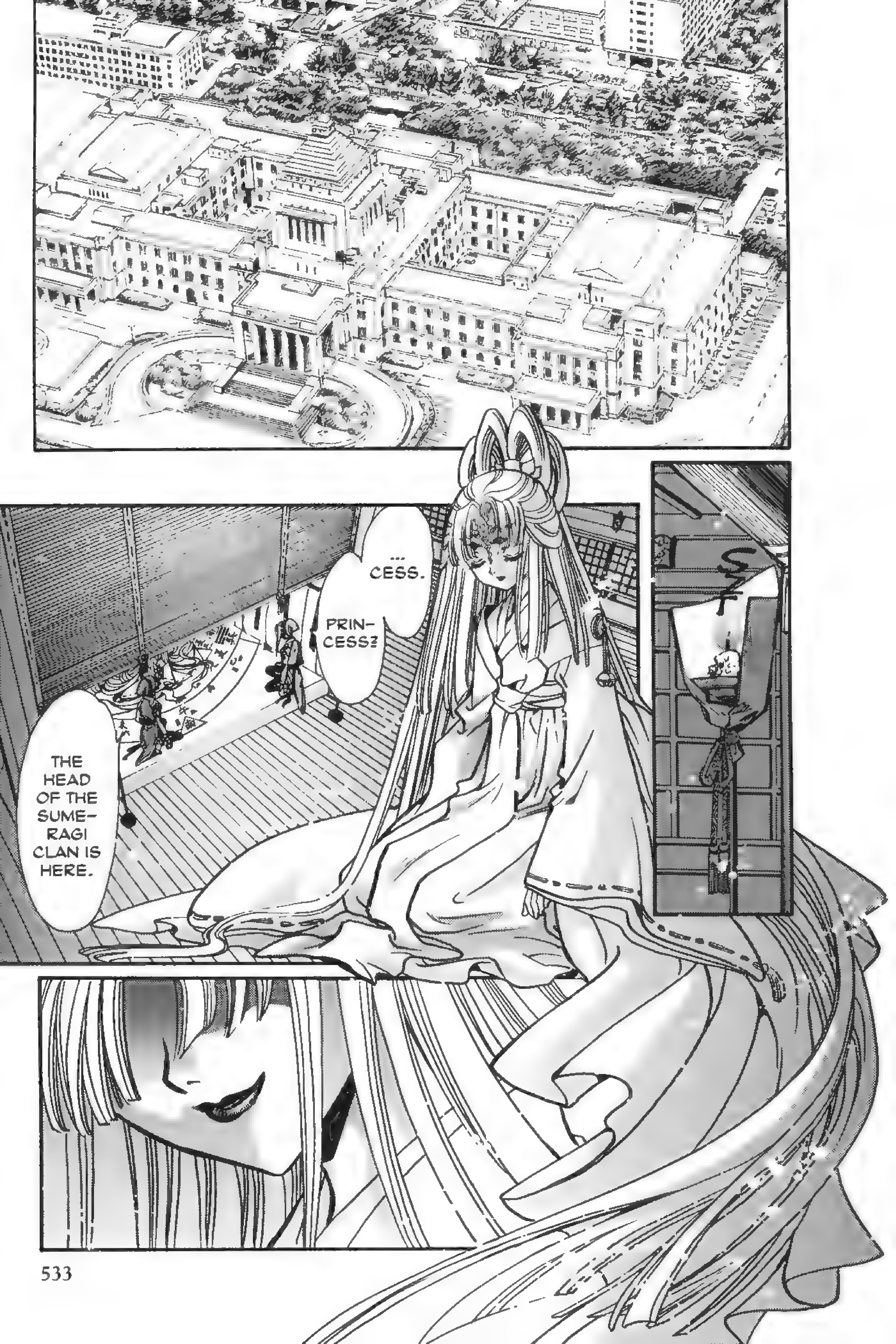

THE SEVEN SEALS WILL BE KILLED OFF BY THEIR OWN DREAMGAZER, AND WE WON'T EVEN HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER.
GRIP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE OCEAN ...
... DIDN'T YOU?

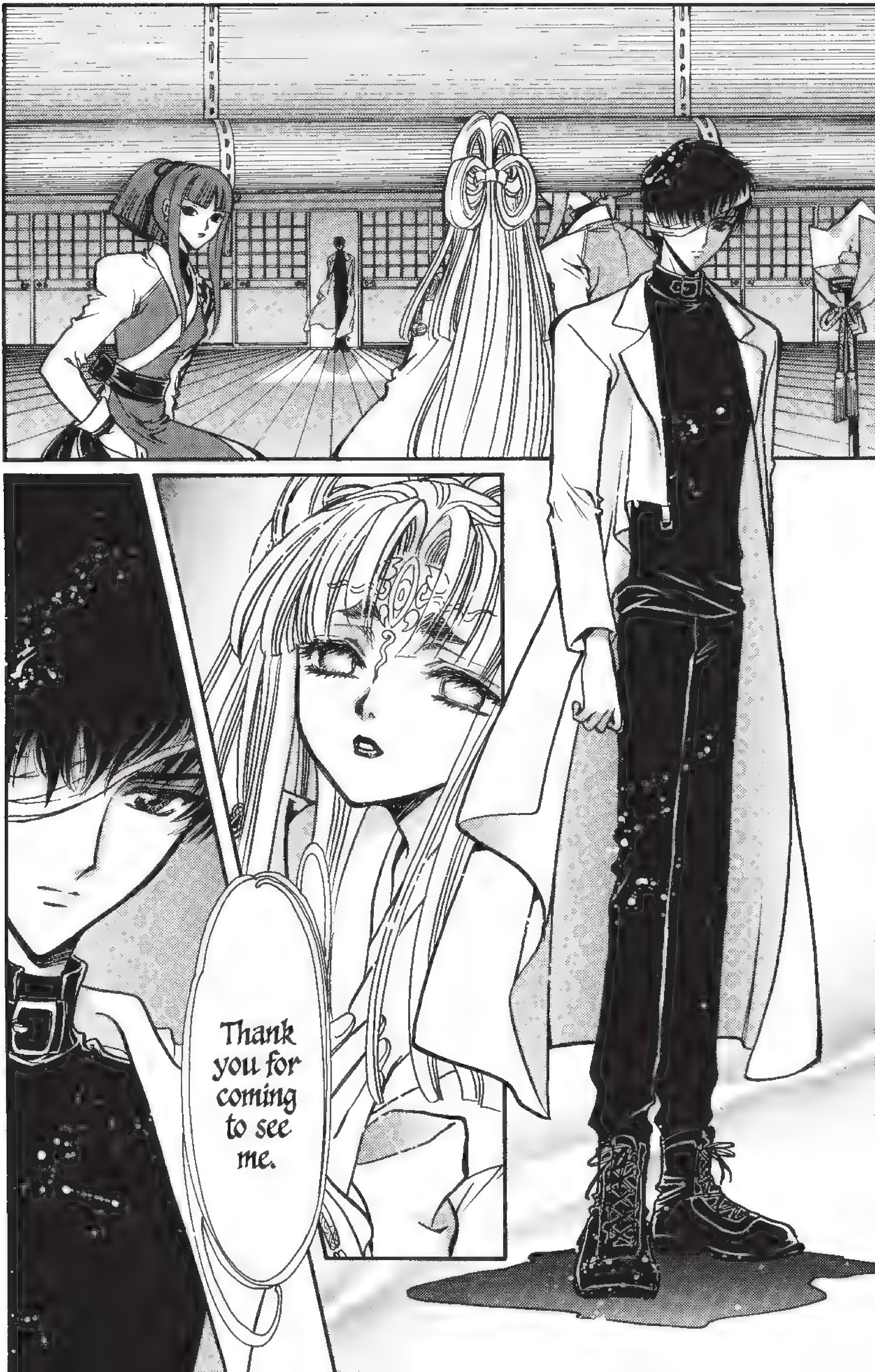

DIDN'T YOU PROMISE HOKUTO ...
...THAT YOU'D GO THERE?
YOU... KNOW WHERE IT IS?
OF COURSE.
BUT ...
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?

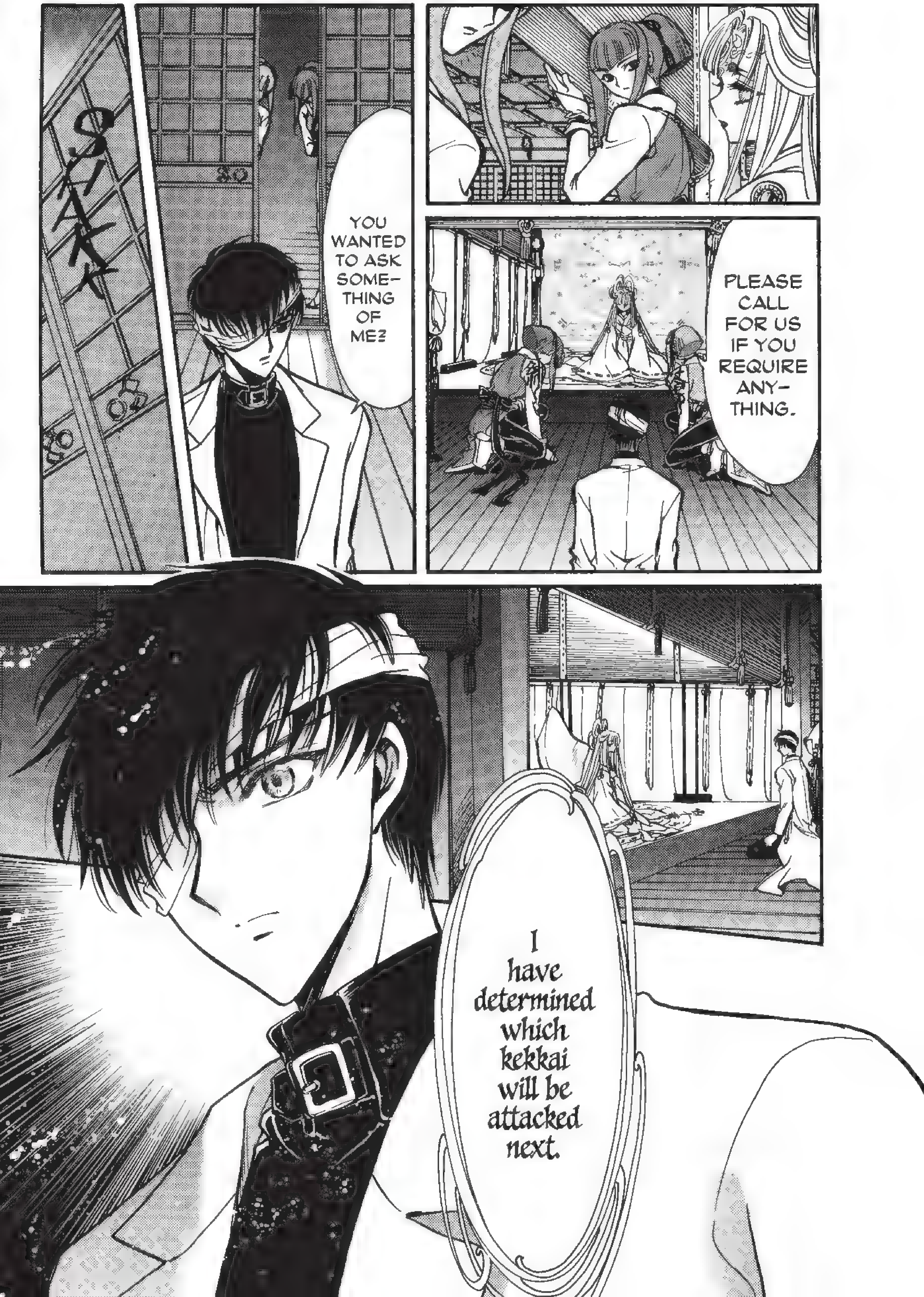

BUT WHY WOULD YOU...
I'VE TOLD YOU WHY.
BECAUSE I'M THE ONE...
...WHO WILL MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE.

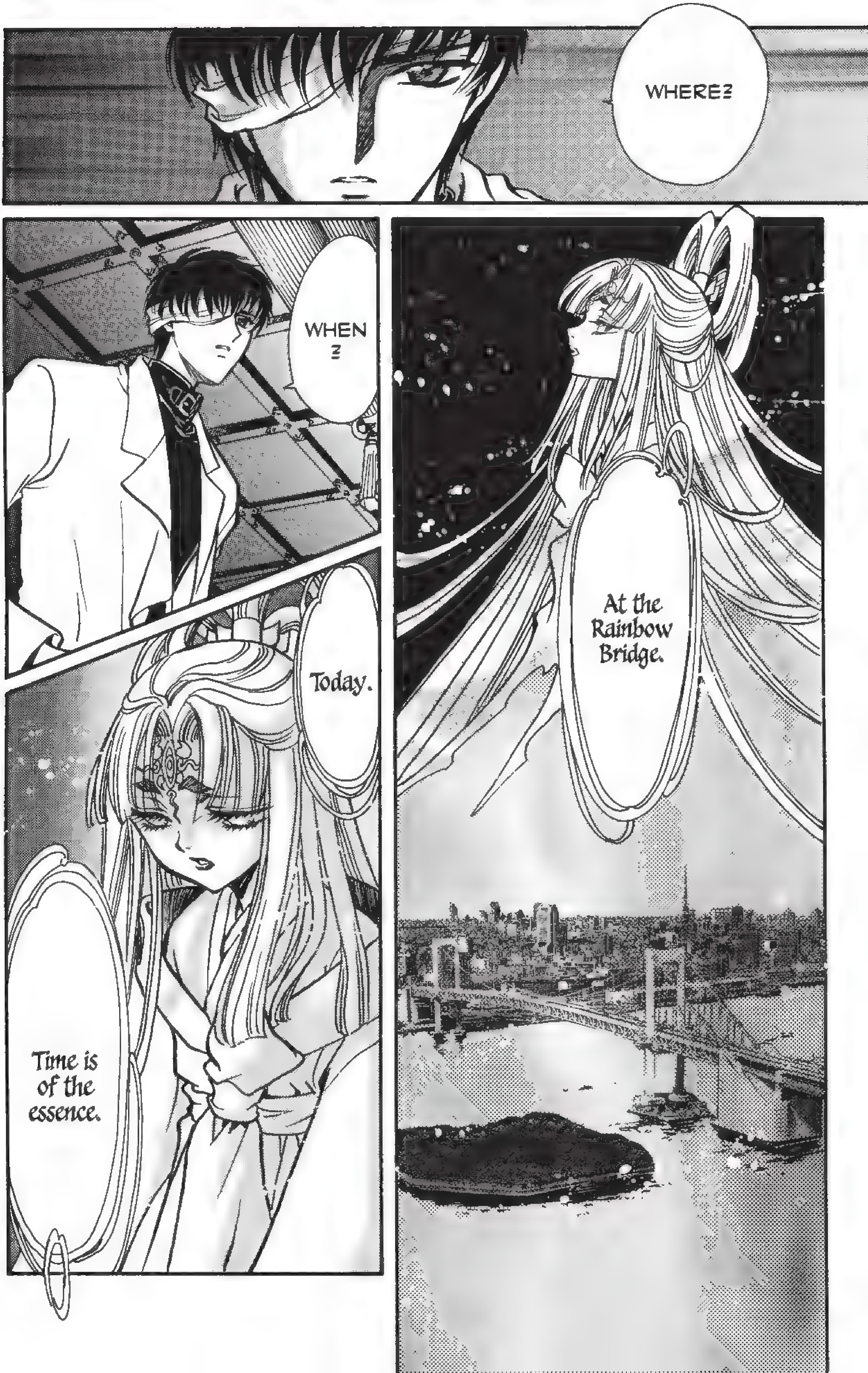

SWUP

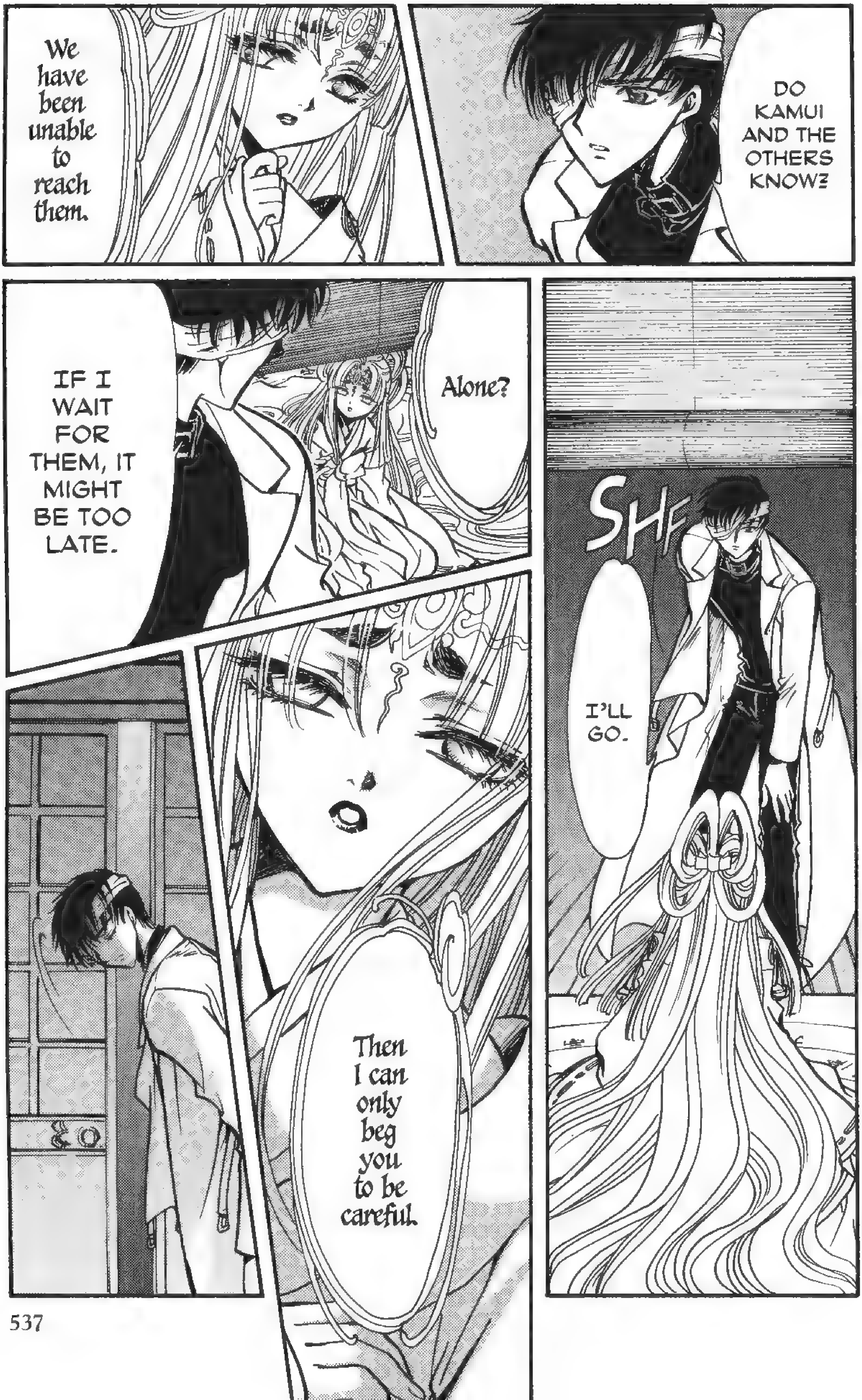

ZSHT

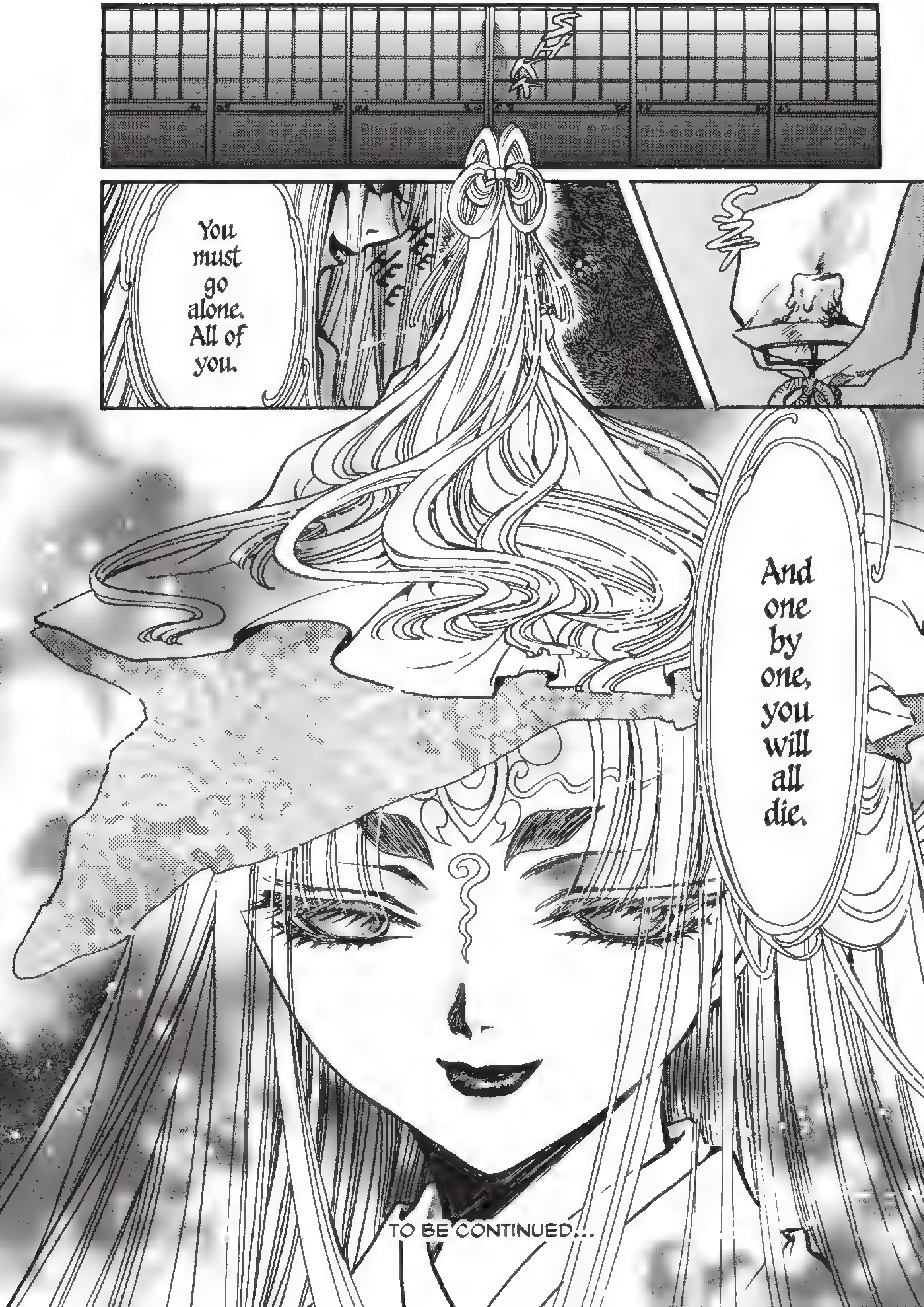

...CESS.
PRINCESS?
THE HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI CLAN IS HERE.


Thank you for coming to see me.


PLEASE CALL FOR US IF YOU REQUIRE ANYTHING.
SHAK
YOU WANTED TO ASK SOMETHING OF ME?
I have determined which kekkai will be attacked next.


WHERE?
WHEN?
At the Rainbow Bridge.
Today.
Time is of the essence.

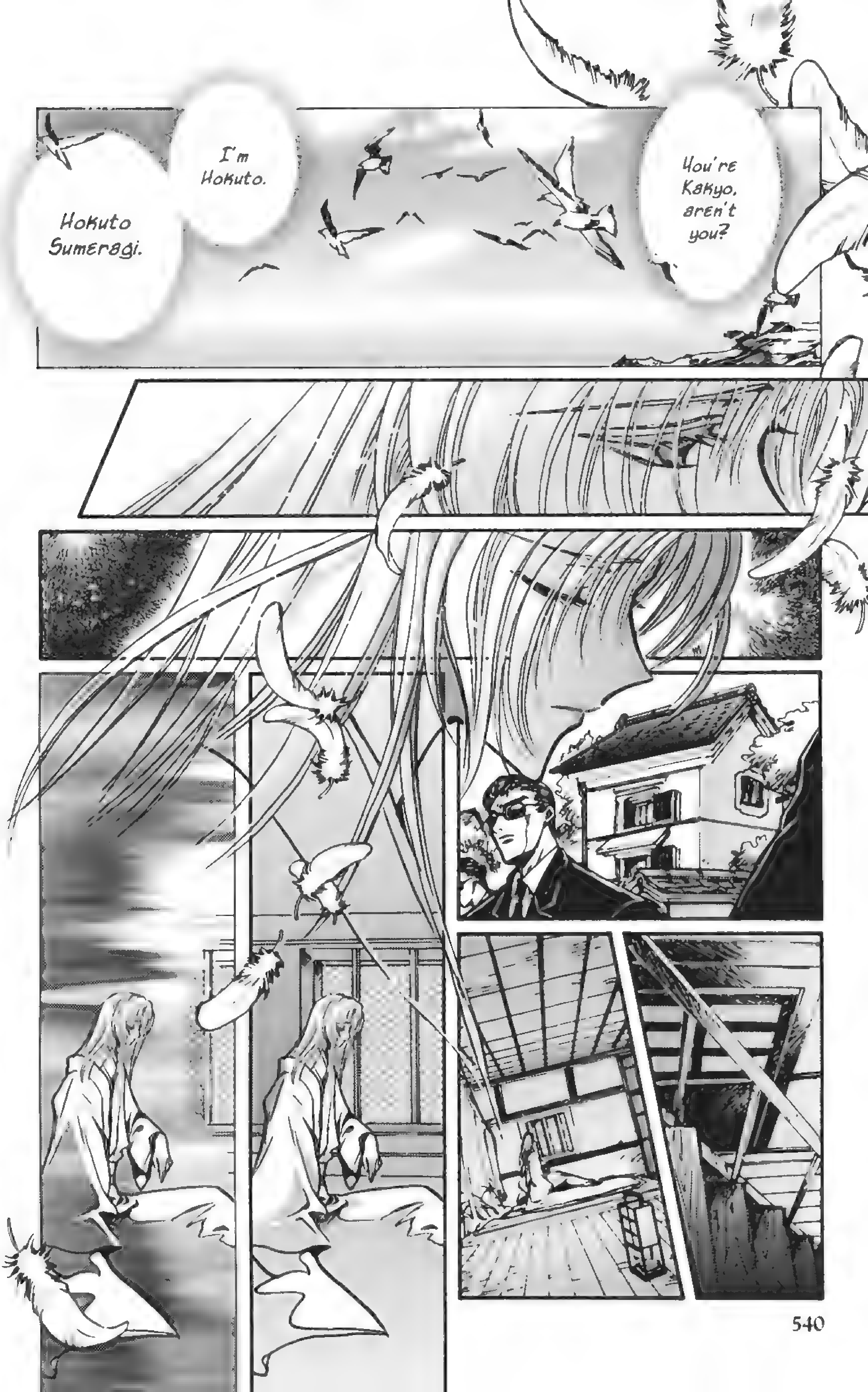

DO KAMUI AND THE OTHERS KNOW?
We have been unable to reach them.
SHF
I'LL GO.
Alone?
IF I WAIT FOR THEM, IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE.
Then I can only beg you to be careful.

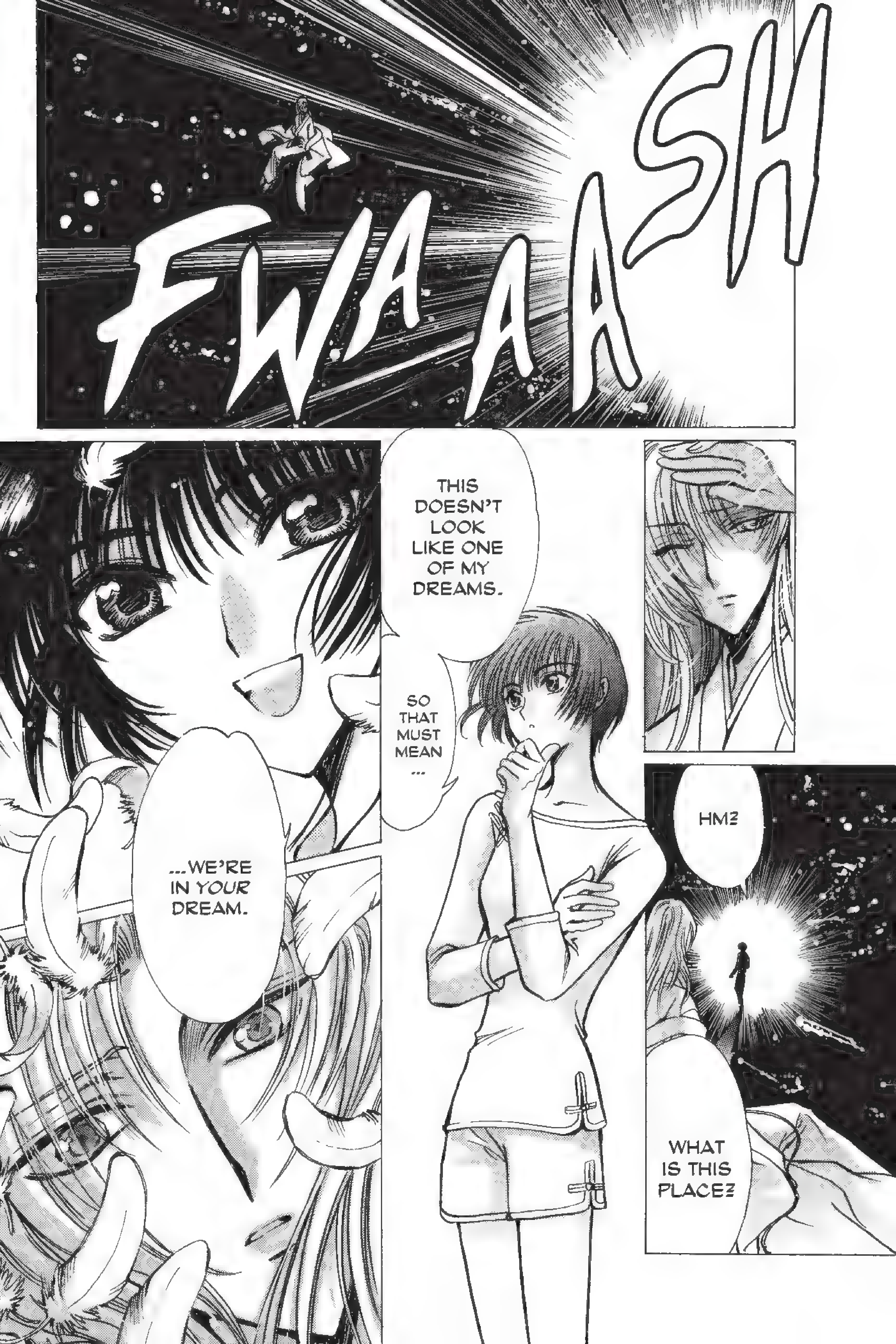

You must go alone. All of you.
And one by one, you will all die.

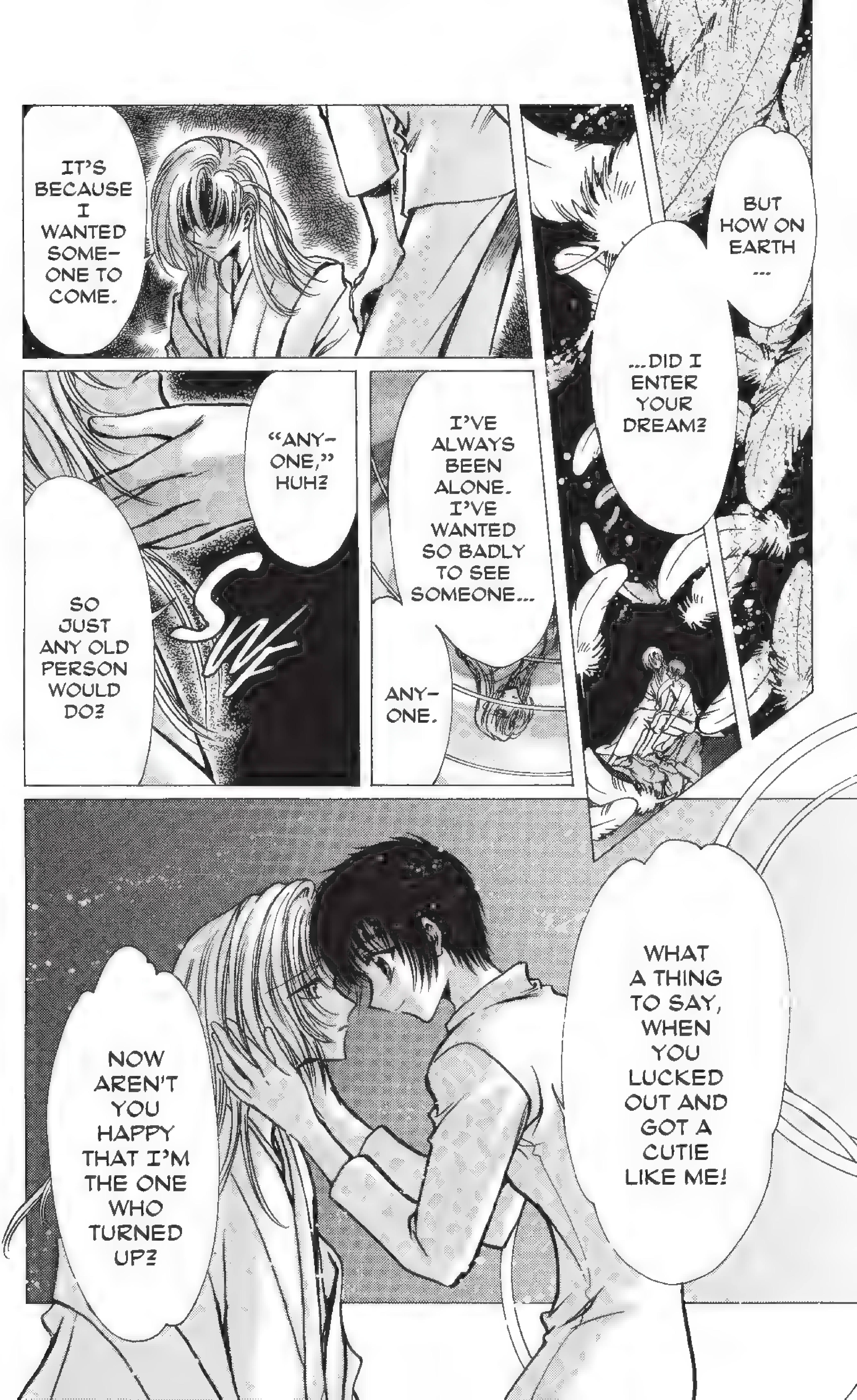
TO BE CONTINUED...

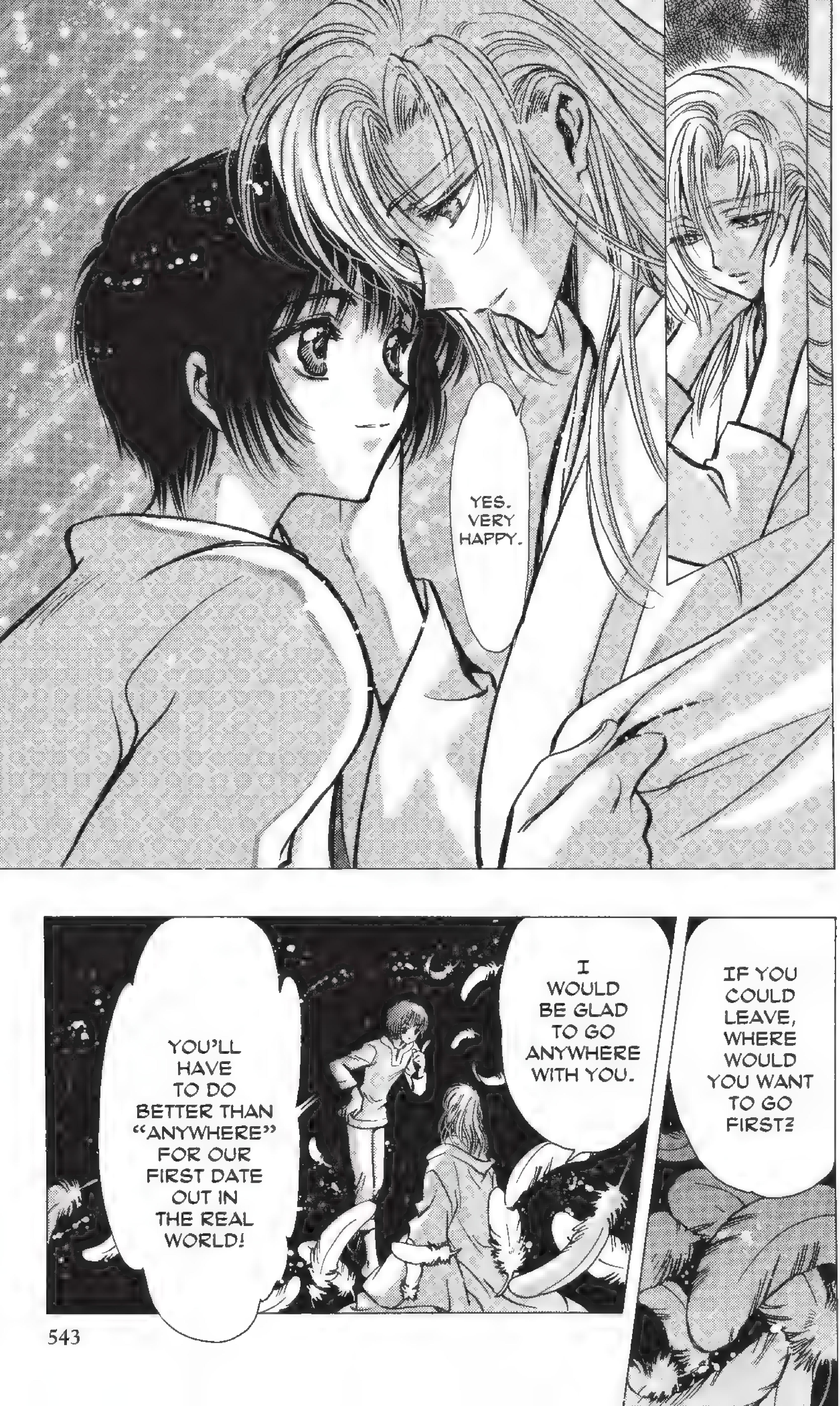
X

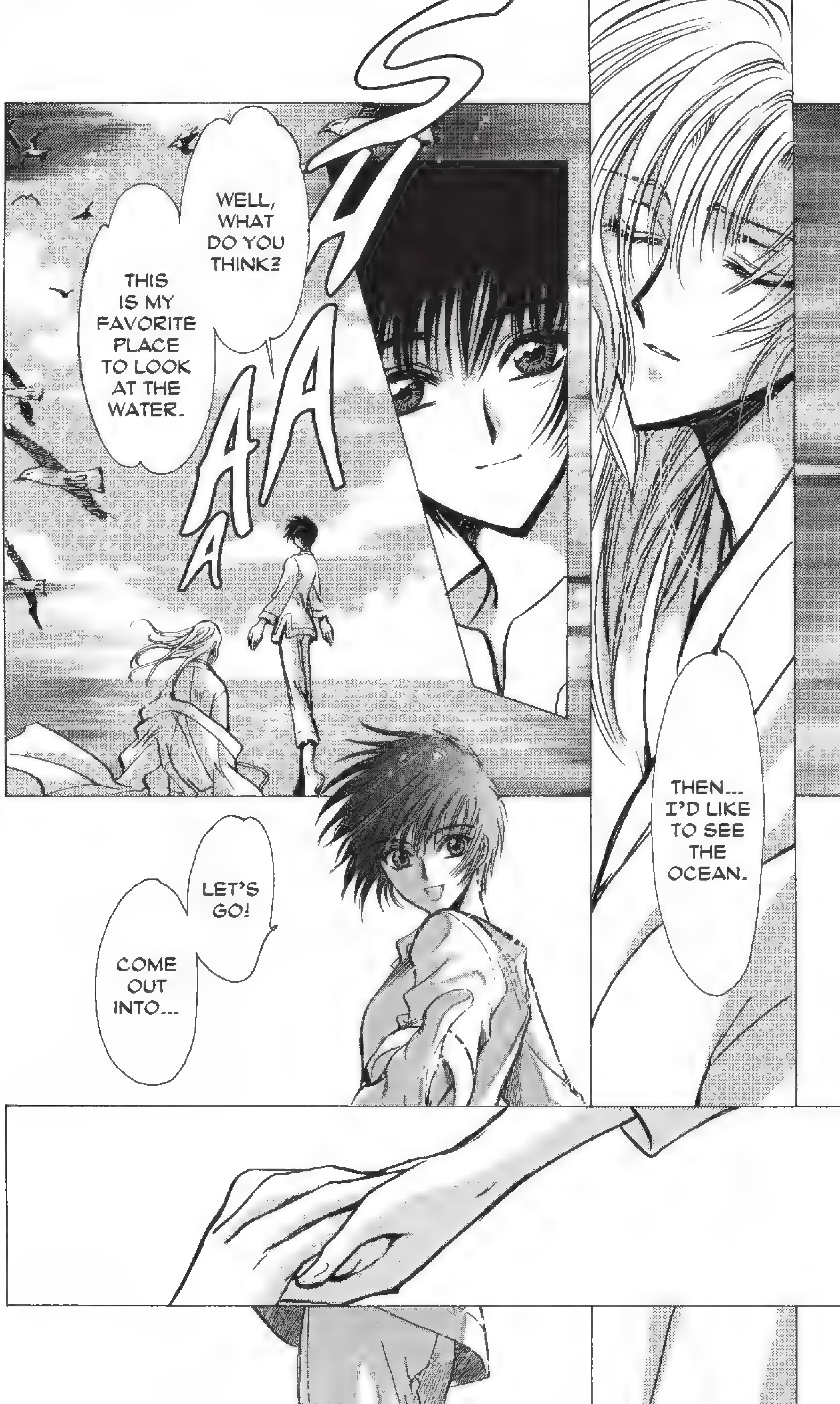
KAKYO KUZUKI

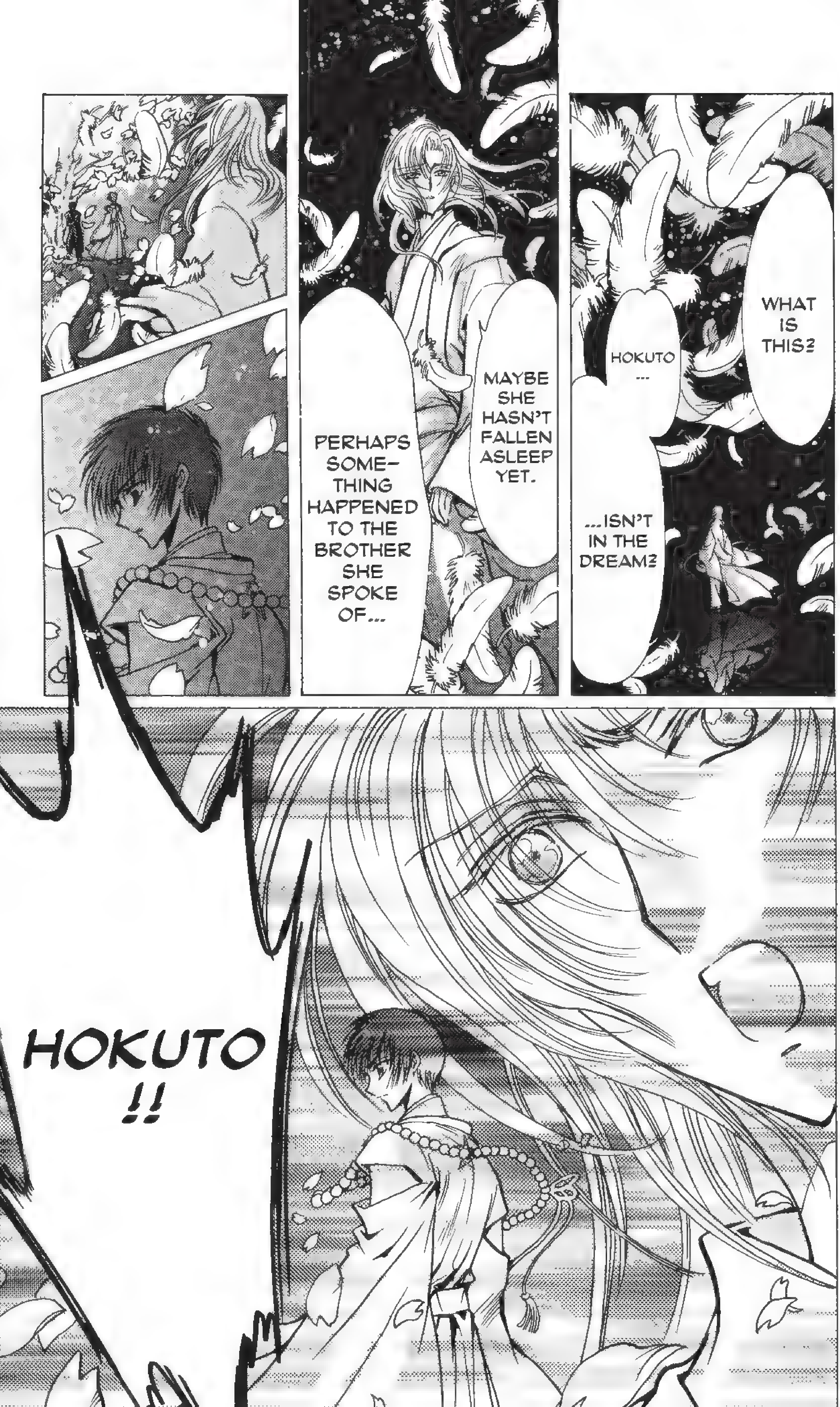

You're Kakyo, aren't you?
I'm Hokuto.
Hokuto Sumeragi.

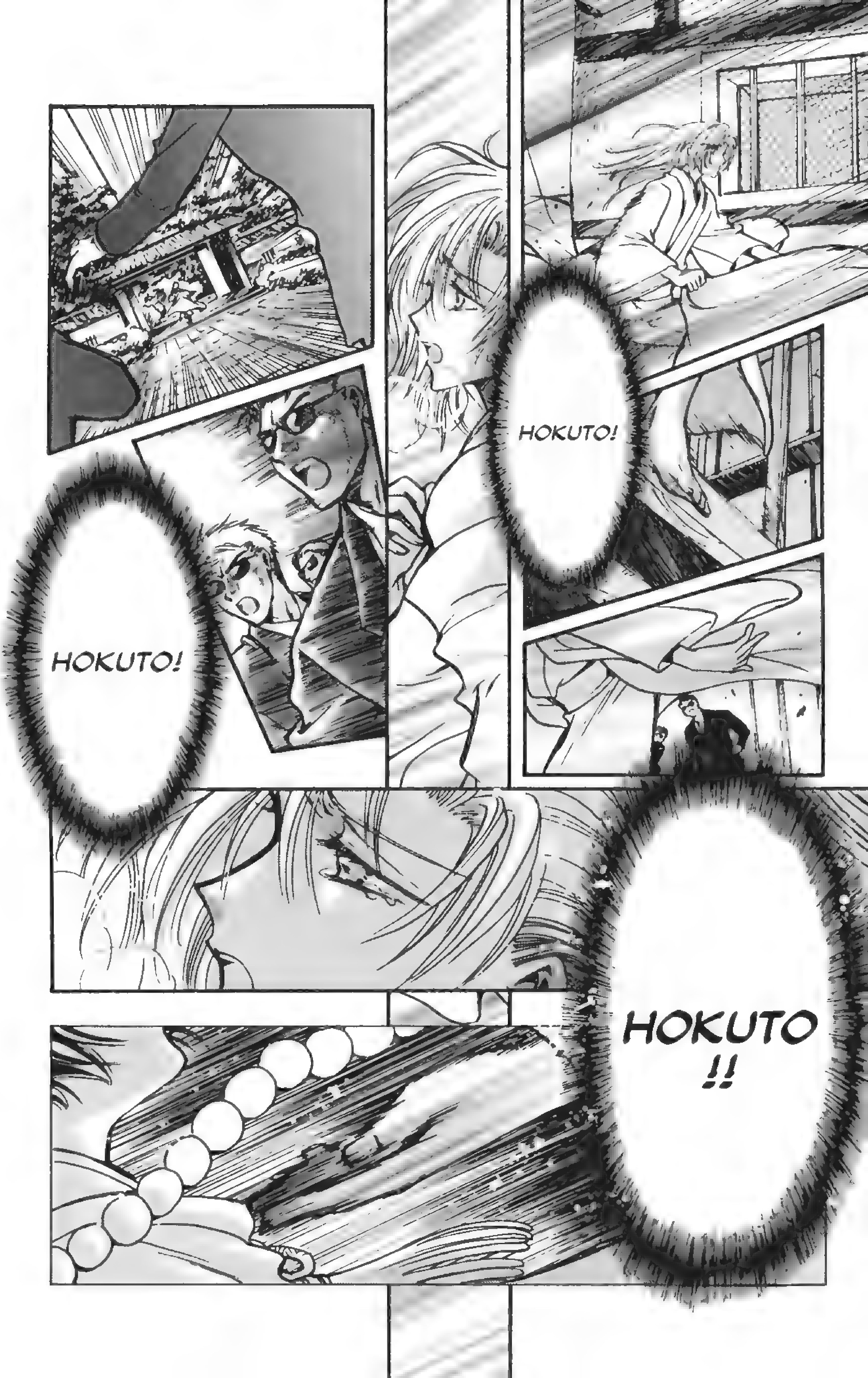

FWAASH
HM?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF MY DREAMS.
SO THAT MUST MEAN...
...WE'RE IN *YOUR* DREAM.

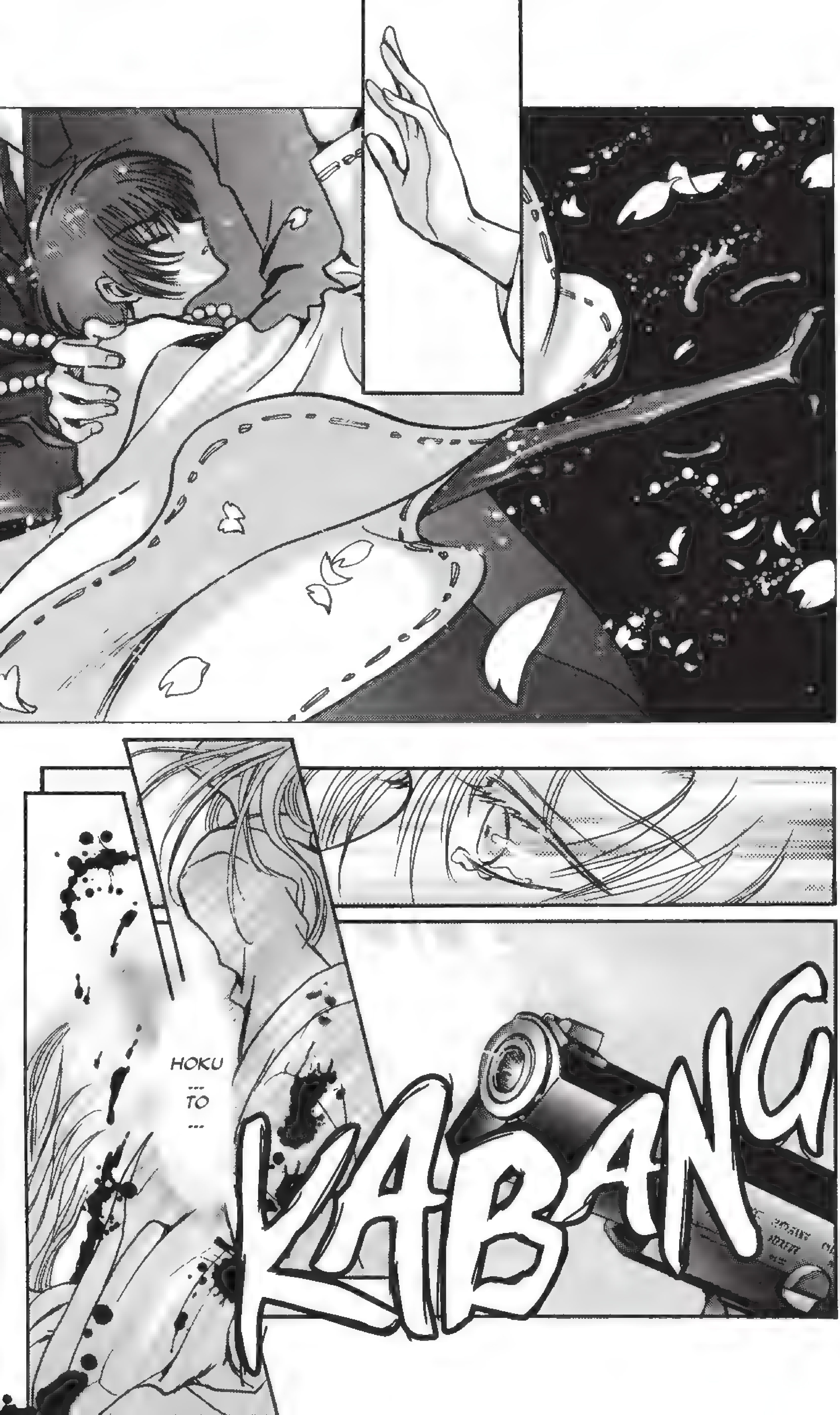

BUT HOW ON EARTH ...
...DID I ENTER YOUR DREAM?
IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED SOMEONE TO COME.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE. I'VE WANTED SO BADLY TO SEE SOMEONE...
ANYONE.
"ANYONE," HUH?
SO JUST ANY OLD PERSON WOULD DO?
WHAT A THING TO SAY, WHEN YOU LUCKED OUT AND GOT A CUTIE LIKE ME!
NOW AREN'T YOU HAPPY THAT I'M THE ONE WHO TURNED UP?


YES. VERY HAPPY.
IF YOU COULD LEAVE, WHERE WOULD YOU WANT TO GO FIRST?
I WOULD BE GLAD TO GO ANYWHERE WITH YOU.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN "ANYWHERE" FOR OUR FIRST DATE OUT IN THE REAL WORLD!


THEN... I'D LIKE TO SEE THE OCEAN.
SHAAAA
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS IS MY FAVORITE PLACE TO LOOK AT THE WATER.
LET'S GO!
COME OUT INTO...

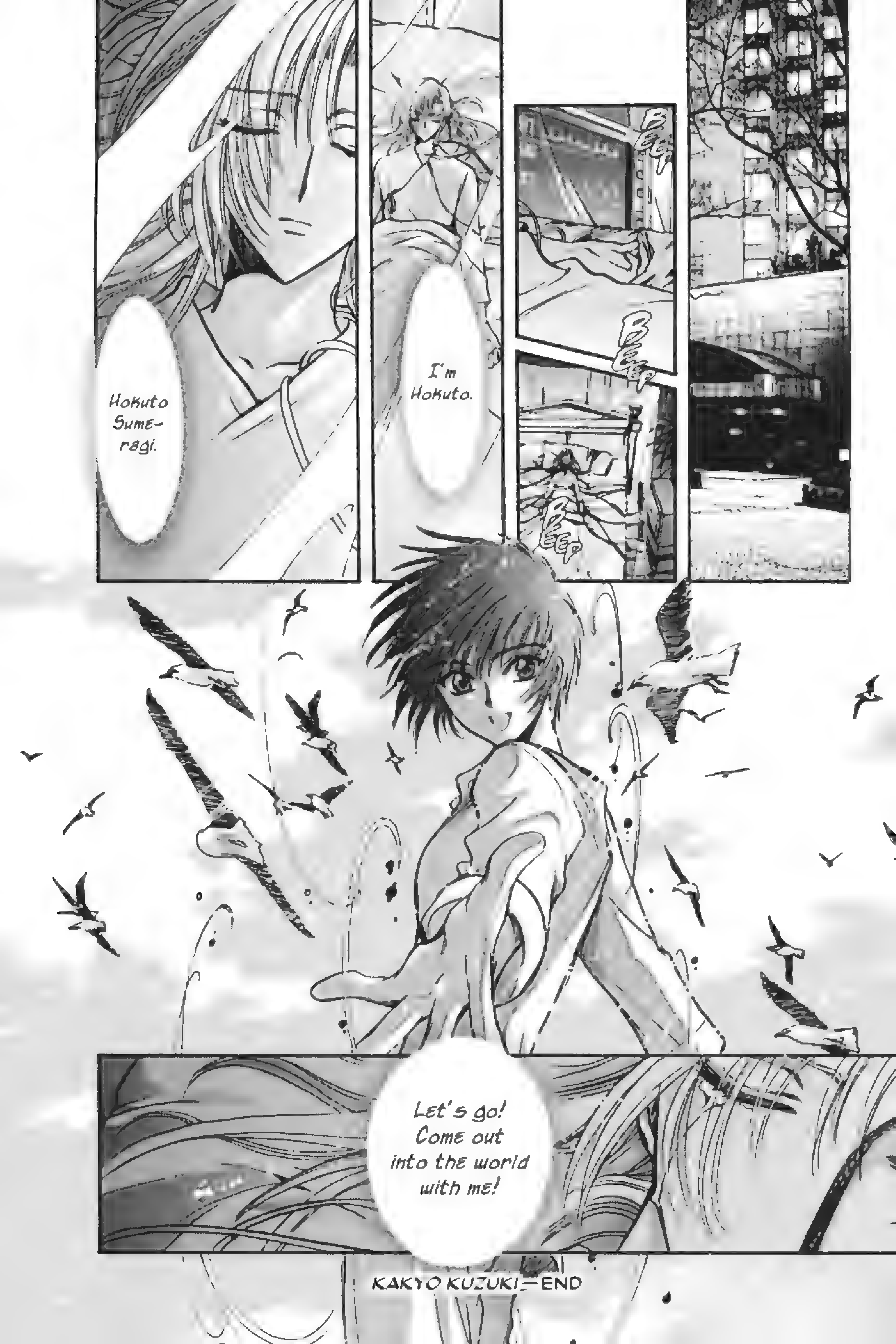

WHAT IS THIS?
HOKUTO...
...ISN'T IN THE DREAM?
MAYBE SHE HASN'T FALLEN ASLEEP YET.
PERHAPS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE BROTHER SHE SPOKE OF...
HOKUTO!!


HOKUTO!
HOKUTO!
HOKUTO !!


HOKU

TO

KABANG


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
I'm Hokuto.
Hokuto Sumeragi.
Let's go! Come out into the world with me!

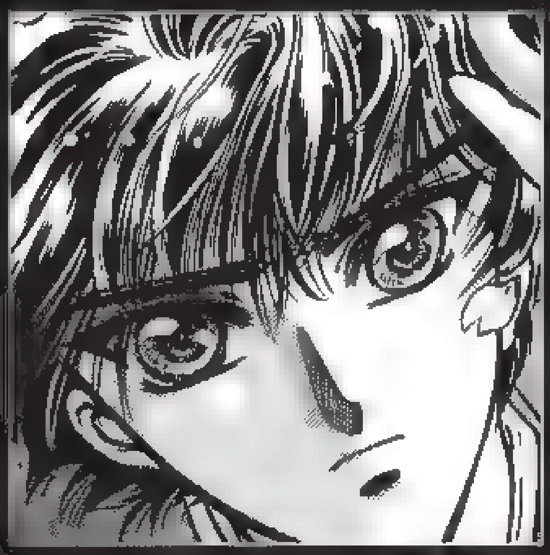
KAKYO KUZUKI—END

X

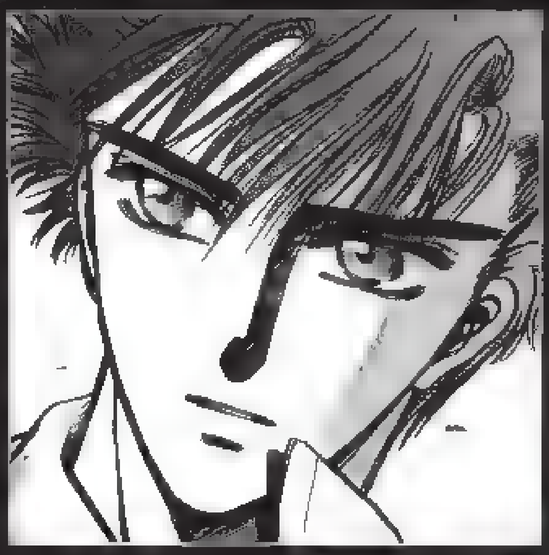
END VOLUME 5

X

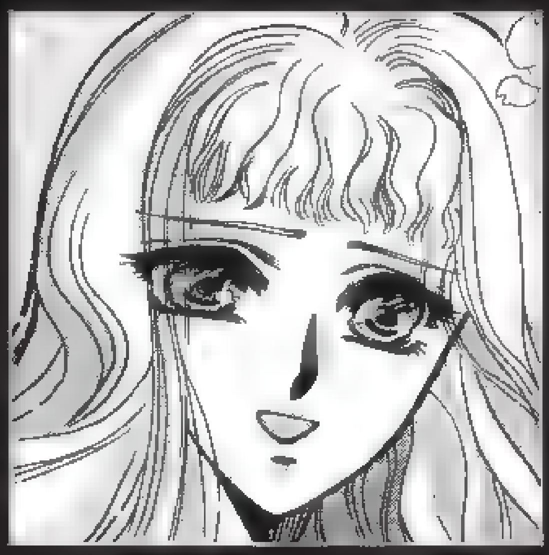
CAST OF CHARACTERS



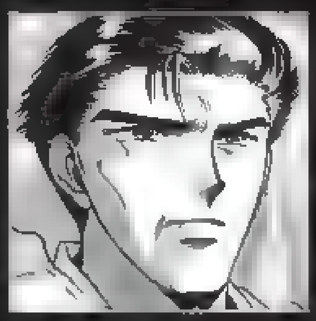
KAMUI SHIRO
A young man possessing tremendous arcane powers, he is at the center of a prophecy concerning the end of the world.



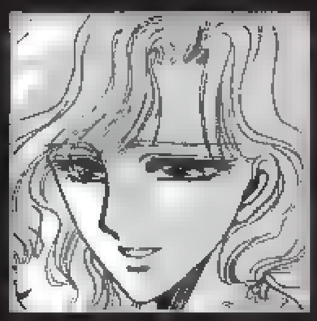
FUMA MONOU
Kamui's childhood friend and Kotori's brother. He too is involved in the prophecy, ordained by fate to be Kamui's "twin star."



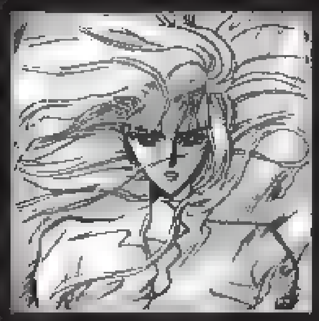
KOTORI MONOU
Fuma's little sister, and one of Kamui's closest childhood friends. The workings of the prophecy brought her life to a tragic end.



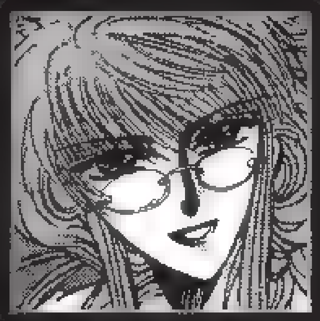
KYOGO MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's father, he was the priest of the Togakushi Shrine and guardian of the Sacred Sword.



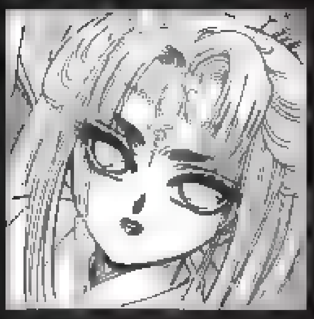
SAYA MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's mother. She gave up her life in order to bring the Sacred Sword into being.



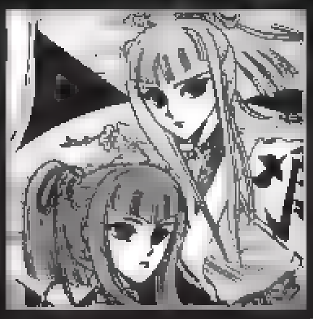
TORU SHIRO
Kamui's mother. A descendant of an ancient family of "Shadow Sacrifices" who have the power to avert the misfortunes of others, she sacrificed herself to protect Kamui.



TOKIKO MAGAMI
Toru's younger sister and Kamui's aunt, she died giving birth to the second Sacred Sword.



HINOTO
A blind seer who is able to read the future through dreams. She has foreseen the end of the world, and her vision places Kamui at the heart of the cataclysm to come.

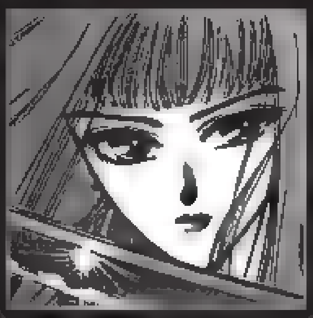


SOHI & HIEN
Hinoto's loyal attendants.

DAISUKE SAIKI
Seiichiro Aoki's nephew. A young wind user, he gave his life to protect Hinoto.

KANOE
Hinoto's younger sister, she also possesses the ability to see the future through dreams. But the destiny that she wishes to bring about is different from the one that Hinoto desires.

THE SEVEN SEALS



ARASHI KISHU
Raised in the Shinto shrine of Ise, she fights by summoning a sword from the palm of her hand.

SORATA ARISUGAWA
A priest from the Mount Koya Buddhist temple complex, he has sworn to protect Kamui with his life.

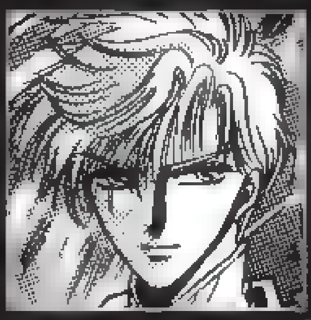
SEIICHIRO AOKI
A harried manga editor with a gentle demeanor, he is also a wind master and a skilled fighter.

YUZURIHA NEKOI
The youngest of the Seals, she is always accompanied by her dog spirit, Inuki, that only she and others with psychic powers can see.

KAREN KASUMI
A fire user who works in a soapland (massage parlor), she endured a traumatic childhood because of her powers.

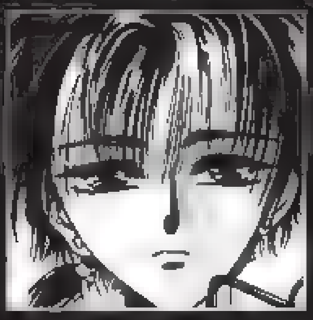
SUBARU SUMERAGI
The 13th generation leader of the Sumeragi Clan, the most powerful users of *onmyo* magic, he shares a deep bond with Seishiro Sakurazuka.

THE SEVEN ANGELS



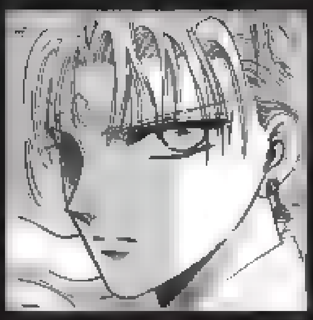
YUTO KIGAI

Working as a civil servant by day, he is a water master whose playful demeanor hides a cold-blooded essence.



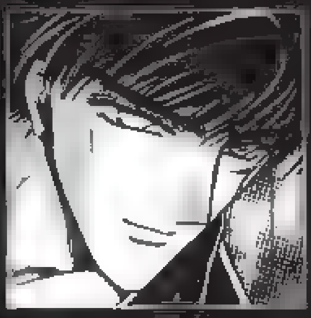
SATSUKI YATOJI

A genius with computers, she shares a special bond with the machine she built, the "Beast."



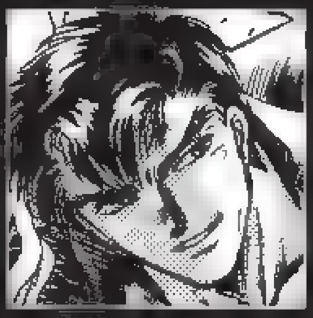
NATAKU

A genetically engineered human androgyne, Nataku wields a ribbon-like length of cloth as a weapon.



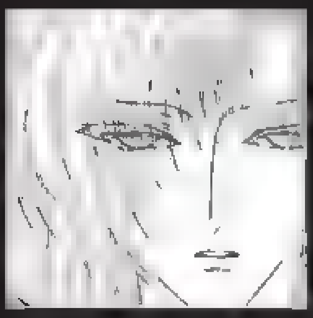
SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA

A skilled *onmyoji*, he is the Guardian of the Cherry Blossom Barrow, last in a line of hereditary assassins. His fate is intertwined with Subaru Sumeragi's.



KUSANAGI SHIYU

Physically imposing but gentle at heart, he is extraordinarily attuned to the natural world. An active service member of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.



KAKYO KUZUKI

His powerful dreamgazing abilities manifested when he was very young, but after losing someone important to him, he became an invalid.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

FAMILIAR

The word translated as "familiar" is *goho*, which in Japanese is written with the characters for "protect" and "dharma." As the name indicates, *goho* are spirits or minor deities that protect and serve high-level Buddhist practitioners.

KEKKAI

A magical barrier or shield. In the world of X there are two different types of kekkai. The first is the individual barrier fields that the Seven Seals create in order to protect their surroundings from damage during a battle. The second is a huge magical ward that protects the entire city of Tokyo.

ONMYODO, ONMYOJI

Onmyodo, or the "way of onmyo," is a school of magical practice based on the esoteric philosophies of Yin-Yang and the Five Elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood). *Onmyoji*, or "masters of onmyo," are adepts who can use their magic to perform rites such as exorcism, purification, and divination.

SHIKI

Commonly called *shikigami*—but shortened to *shiki* in *X*—these are spirits or minor deities summoned to serve *onmyoji*. Shiki can be conjured in different ways, but the most frequently depicted method is to bind them to a paper talisman infused with spells.

SHINGON BUDDHISM

One of the major historical sects in Japan, it is considered to be one of the more mystical branches of Buddhism. It places a greater emphasis on religious experience over doctrine, and a significant aspect of its practice is the transmission of esoteric teachings. For these reasons, it is also referred to as "Esoteric Buddhism."

atmosphere is the same. I used the screen behind Seishiro as a reference, drawing the same flowers but purposely changing the shapes of the clouds. The concept is that they're two different screens painted by the same artist.

PAGE 7

1999 August, *X* Volume 13, Cover Illustration

The counterpart to the illustration of Subaru on the previous page. Since it was done first, I was able to draw it much more freely. Given the blood spatter on the screen, it looks like Seishiro's just done some work. The Japanese-style setting really suits him. I used Copic markers and color ink, along with gold poster color for the screen. I like how the clouds turned out.

PAGE 185

1999 *Monthly Asuka* September Issue, Title Page Illustration

This is a scene of when Kamui is injured in the story. But then again, he's always injured in the second half of the story [*laughs*]. In order to show the bandages and blood, I have him lying on a white bed sheet. Since this is after he became a Dragon of Heaven, his white wings have fallen off, and all he has left are the black ones. I drew Kamui using Copic markers and color ink, the blood with color ink and acrylic gouache, and the wings with an airbrush. The red I used for the blood is slightly darker than the one I ordinarily used back then.

PAGE 186

2001 *Monthly Asuka* February Issue, Title Page Illustration

This was for a February issue of the magazine, but I totally ignored the season [*laughs*]. Kakyo is often drawn in white, which is his thematic color, so I decided to use autumn leaves as a contrast to that. I did the coloring after placing a beige ground coat over the paper. I usually put down a ground coat first if I want the illustration to have a delicate brightness.

PAGE 187

2001 *Monthly Asuka* November Issue, Title Page Illustration

I put down a grayish beige ground coat to tint the paper before drawing the art, which was mainly done with color ink. Seiichiro can control the wind, so I thought he'd look good together with swallows. I just love to draw animals [*laughs*]. Since this scene has an atmosphere of early summer, of when the swallows come back, I had him wear a summery kimono. But I didn't give any consideration to when this illustration would actually run in the magazine [*laughs*].

PAGE 1

1999 *Monthly Asuka* June Issue, Title Page Illustration

I placed a ground coat of brown on a sheet of paper that was already a light brown color to begin with. I added the red lines on top of that with poster color (acrylic gouache). I think the image outlines were drawn with a ballpoint pen—I wanted to create a rough, etching-like effect. I remember spending a lot of time on the wings.

PAGE 2-3

1999 *Monthly Asuka* February Issue, Title Page Illustration

I wanted to draw a relaxed scene showing these two together as a couple. Animals love Kusanagi, so when he appears in the story he's surrounded by cats [*laughs*]. I drew a cat in this one too. Yuzuriha has a connection to cats as well: although she controls Inuki, her family name is Nekoi. The tree in the background is meant to be a species with broad leaves, like a poplar.
[Ed. Note: Yuzuriha's family name, "Nekoi," is written with the kanji character for "cat," *neko*.]

PAGE 4

1998 *Monthly Asuka* July Issue, Title Page Illustration

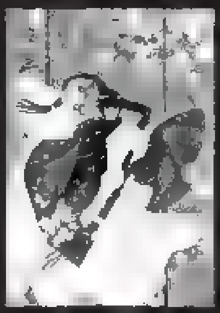
I didn't mean for it to happen, but this ended up looking a lot like a tarot card [*laughs*]. I drew Karen using Copic markers, color ink, and an airbrush, and used Copic markers again for the stained glass behind her. The brownish, India ink-like hue of the background was done with a Lumocolor pen. I really liked that particular color and used it a lot back then.

PAGE 5

1998 *Monthly Asuka* December Issue,
Title Page Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Copic marker

The building is the Ginza Wako clock tower. I always thought it'd be interesting to see somebody standing on it, so I drew this illustration. Seiichiro's on his way home from work, I guess. Since this is a night scene I paid close attention to the lighting while I was doing it.
[Ed. Note: Wako is a luxury goods store in Ginza, an upscale shopping district in Tokyo.]

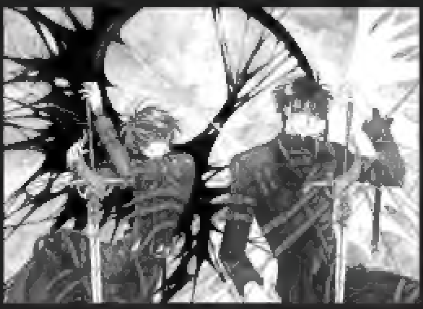
PAGE 6



2002 *Monthly Asuka* June Issue, Title Page Illustration

This is meant to be the counterpart to the illustration of Seishiro that appears on the next page. The two were drawn at totally different times—this one was done later on—but the

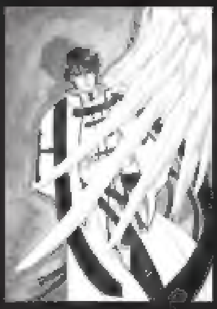
PAGE 370-371



2001 *Monthly Asuka* November and December Issues, Cover Illustrations

This illustration was split in two and used on the covers of consecutive issues of *Asuka* magazine. I was told beforehand that the two halves would be used separately, so I drew the image in such a way that it could be separated in the middle. I used modeling paste for the background to give it a rugged texture. I didn't draw wings for this one, and instead used the cloth and objects to represent them. Everything apart from the background was done in acrylic gouache, Copic markers and color ink.

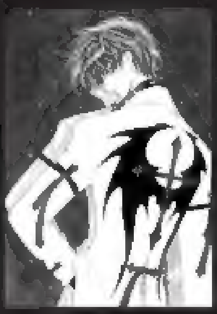
PAGE 372



2001 *Monthly Asuka* March Issue, Title Page Illustration

I applied a coat of modeling paste over the background to create a wall-like texture. Since Fuma is one of the Seven Angels I wanted to make him look like a priest, so I had him wear something that kind of looked like a vestment. But he's a slightly evil priest who seems to be scheming something [*laughs*]. Unlike in other illustrations, the feathers aren't scattered all over; instead, I have Fuma spreading his wing open towards the front.

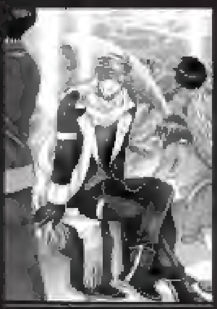
PAGE 373



2001 *Monthly Asuka* March, April, and May Issues, Mail Order Calling Card Bonus

I wanted to make this look like as if Kamui were standing before a dark mirror showing his reflection. I usually draw him with wings on his back, but here I tried to represent them with the pattern on his jacket. I used a cross as the motif for the pattern, so it would look like something the Angels would wear. The whole image was done using Copic markers.

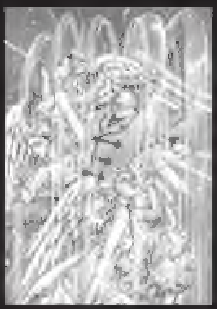
PAGE 374



2003 *Monthly Asuka* January Issue, Title Page Illustration

My illustrations of Yuto usually have water in them. I wanted to give this one a glossy look, as if it had been drawn on a computer, and since it's a scene at an aquarium, there's an expanse of glass in the background. I wanted it to have a photographic feel. I used color ink and Copic markers, and added the reflected light on the aquarium glass using an airbrush.

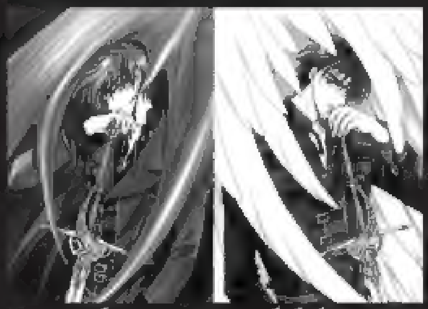
PAGE 375



2000 August, *X* Volume 15, Cover Illustration

Blue is Yuto's theme color, so naturally I have him playing around in a fountain. If you look at this illustration from far away though, it looks very funny and odd [*laughs*]. And since it's Yuto, of course he's surrounded by women—even though they're all statues [*laughs*]. The background was done with color ink, and I used Copic markers for his hair and other details.

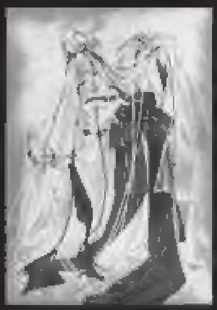
PAGE 188-189



1999 *Monthly Asuka* March, April, and May Issues, Mail Order Calling Card Bonus

This was an illustration for a calling card, so it's very small. I drew it in such a way that it could be viewed either as a single image or as two, split in the middle. I was told that a gold element was going to be placed at the bottom for a different version, so I drew only the upper half of their bodies to leave some space for that. I mainly used Copic markers, but since I really wanted the illustration to have a sepia tint I used a lot of brownish colors. The effect is that we're looking at this through a filter of some sort.

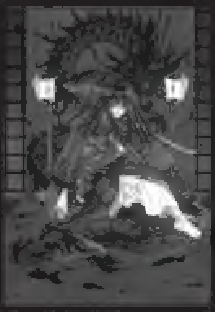
PAGE 190



2000 *Monthly Asuka* December Issue, Title Page Illustration

This was probably done on a sheet of hotel stationery [*laughs*]. The paper itself had a parchment-like pattern to it. As an experiment, I had put down a ground coat of sepia on the paper, and the effect on the edges turned out so well that I kept the sheet until I had an opportunity to use it [*laughs*]. I like how this illustration has an unstable atmosphere, like an old photograph that was unsuccessfully developed.

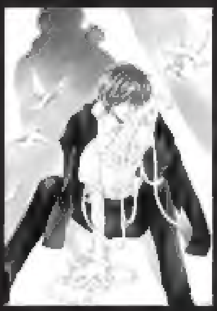
PAGE 191



2000 February, *X* Volume 14, Cover Illustration

Arashi is often depicted wearing a kimono. The request was to use a deep purplish red, so the entire illustration is drawn using that color. I wanted to emphasize the purple, so I used it on the small details. To tell you the truth, I use fewer colors for X than for other series. By the way, the pattern on the kimono belt is also from one of our belongings [*laughs*]. Please note how the dragon in the background blends into the kimono pattern in one continuous line.

PAGE 369



2000 *Monthly Asuka* June Issue, Title Page Illustration

An image of Kamui sitting in a soft ray of light. I wanted to challenge myself to create an illustration that would let other people realize where he was without any details in the background. But the answer is [*laughs*], he's sitting inside an abandoned building. I tried to express that with just the light and shadow, without drawing the rubble and shattered glass. Kamui was injured in the story at that point, so I included the bandage.

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VERY SPECIAL THANKS	ALL OUR READERS

X

THEIR DESTINY WAS FOREORDAINED

X

STORY AND ART BY CLAMP

3-IN-1 EDITION
VOL. 5
VIZ MEDIA EDITION

TRANSLATION	**LILLIAN OLSEN**
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X Volume 5 © CLAMP 1999, 2000
First published in Japan in 1999, 2000 by KADOKAWA SHOTEN Co., Ltd., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA SHOTEN Co., Ltd., Tokyo.

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Printed in China

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, March 2013

www.viz.com

RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEEN

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